



## Harvey Weinstein found guilty in landmark #MeToo moment

By M.SISAK/T. HAYS

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Harvey Weinstein was convicted Monday of rape and sexual assault against two women and could be sent to prison for decades, sealing his dizzying fall from powerful Hollywood studio boss to archvillain of the #MeToo movement. He was convicted on charges stemming from a 2006 sexual assault and a 2013 rape. The jury found Weinstein not guilty on the most serious charge, predatory sexual assault, that could have resulted in a life sentence. The most damaging conviction, for the sexual assault of production assistant Mimi Hales, would carry a maximum sentence of 25 years.

Continued on Page 30



Harvey Weinstein arrives at a Manhattan courthouse for jury deliberations in his rape trial, Monday, Feb. 24, 2020, in New York.

Associated Press

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## White House readying emergency coronavirus budget request

By **ANDREW TAYLOR**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The White House is readying an urgent budget request to address the deadly coronavirus outbreak, whose rapid spread is spooking financial markets and restricting international travel.

The request is still being developed but is likely to come this week, a senior administration official confirmed Monday. The Department of Health and Human Services has already tapped into an emergency

infectious disease rapid response fund and is seeking to transfer more than \$130 million from other HHS accounts to combat the virus but is pressing for more.

"We need some funding here to make sure that we protect all Americans," Deputy White House Press Secretary Hogan Gidley said on Fox News. "We need to combat this, we need to make sure our people are safe and the president is always going to take action to do that."

Senators returning to Washington after a weeklong re-



In this Feb. 13, 2020 file photo, Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington.

**Associated Press**



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cess will receive a classified briefing Tuesday morning on the government's coronavirus response, a Senate aide said.

"All of the warning lights are flashing bright red. We are staring down a potential pandemic and the administration has no plan," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. "We have a crisis of coronavirus and President Trump has no plan, no urgency, no understanding of the facts or how to coordinate a response."

Trump was a vocal critic of former President Barack Obama's response to the 2014 Ebola scare, which barely touched the U.S. but was seen as a factor in that year's midterm elections, which restored control of the Senate to Republicans. Among the needs is funding

to reimburse the Pentagon, which is housing evacuees from China — who are required to undergo 14-day quarantines — at several military bases in California. Democrats controlling the House wrote HHS Secretary Alex Azar earlier this month to request funds to help speed development of a coronavirus vaccine, expand laboratory capacity, and beef up screening efforts at U.S. entry points. Azar is slated to testify before the Senate Appropriations Committee on Tuesday, and the U.S. response to the outbreak is sure to be a major topic. The White House budget office, led by Russell Vought, is working with HHS to shape the request, with the agency seeking more than the White House is likely to approve. There is

a receptive audience for the request on Capitol Hill, though stand-alone emergency spending bills can be tricky to pass since they are invariably a target for lawmakers seeking add-ons.

The stock market dove Monday over coronavirus fears, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropping by 3.6% — or more than 1,000 points.

The quickly spreading virus has slammed the economy of China, where the virus originated, and caseloads are rapidly increasing in countries such as South Korea, Iran, and Italy.

In San Francisco, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi took a walking tour of Chinatown on Monday to let the public know the neighborhood is safe and open for business. □





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## Forest fire near I-80, Appalachian Trail mostly contained

**HARDWICK TOWNSHIP, N.J.**

**(AP)** — A forest fire burning through a popular hiking area that is crossed by the Appalachian Trail and a major interstate highway was about 80% contained by Monday afternoon, New Jersey fire officials said.

The fire began Sunday afternoon on Mount Tammany, a steep, rugged area of New Jersey's Worthington State Forest and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area on the New Jersey-Pennsylvania border. Fire officials said about 80 acres (30 hectares) had burned by Monday.

A helicopter and 40 firefighters were working to put the fire out Monday, officials said.

Greg McLaughlin, chief of

the New Jersey Forest Fires Service, said no injuries have been reported.

A cause for the fire had not been determined, officials said.

Chris Franek, the state forest fire service's assistant division fire warden, said fires on similar terrain usually burn upward but that Sunday's fire, which started below a trail at an elevation of about 1,400 feet burned downhill because the trail area is rocky and without abundant vegetation. He said fires are rare there at this time of year because the area usually has a layer of snow.

Incident Commander Eric Weber told WFMZ-TV the ground crews operating at night had to contend with difficult terrain.

A helicopter dropped water on the fire Sunday, officials said.



A fire burns on Mount Tammany in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in Hardwick Township, N.J., Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020.

Associated Press

cial said.

"It's pretty steep and rug-

ged," Weber said. "It's probably the steepest terrain in

the entire state of New Jersey."


Pictures and video shared Sunday on social media showed a wall of flames not far from Interstate 80, which carries traffic to and from New York City and goes through the water gap. It was backed up in both directions.


Some delays were reported during the Monday morning commute, but officials said the highway was open in both directions. They warned, though, that smoky conditions would likely remain until at least Tuesday and flames would also be visible.

The fire broke out on a sunny February day that saw unusually mild. The Appalachian Trail crosses through the recreation area, but remained open Monday afternoon. □

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## FBI official: Russia wants to see U.S. 'tear ourselves apart'

By ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Russia wants to watch Americans "tear ourselves apart" as the United States heads toward elections, an FBI official warned Monday.

David Porter, an assistant section chief with the FBI's Foreign Influence Task Force, accused Russia of conducting brazen operations aimed at spreading disinformation, exploiting lines of division in society and sowing doubt about the integrity of U.S. elections and the ability of its leaders to govern effectively.

Porter spoke at an election security conference on Capitol Hill just days after conflicting accounts emerged of a closed-door briefing intelligence officials had given to House lawmakers on threats from Russia and other nations in the 2020 election. That briefing focused attention on the possibility that Russia could work to aid President Donald Trump's reelection. Democratic rival Sen. Bernie Sanders has said intel-



Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a Security Council meeting at the Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow Moscow, Russia, Friday, Feb. 21, 2020.

Associated Press

ligence officials told him that Russia was looking to boost his candidacy, too. Porter did not address the briefing or whether Russia had a preference for particular candidates. But he said Russia was generally engaged in "information confrontation" aimed at

blurring fact from fiction, eroding American confidence in democratic institutions and driving wedges into society's fracture lines.

"The primary objective is not to create a particular version of the truth but rather to cloud the truth and erode our ability to find it, creating a sentiment that no narrative or news source can be trusted at all," Porter said.

The FBI formed the Foreign Influence Task Force after widespread interference by Russia in the 2016 presidential campaign. The task force was initially intended to focus primarily on Russia, but it also works to counter influence operations — including hacking and more covert methods — from adversaries including China, North Korea and Iran.

U.S. officials see China as an aggressive threat, particularly when it comes to espionage and theft of intellectual property, but Porter said Beijing's goal was less about sowing general

chaos in the U.S. and more about promoting and developing its own economic standing in the world.

"To put it simply, in this space, Russia wants to watch us tear ourselves apart, while it seems that China would rather manage our gradual economic decline over the course of generations," Porter said.

Intelligence officials have not commented publicly on the Feb. 13 briefing given to members of the House Intelligence Committee. One intelligence official said lawmakers were not told that Russia was working directly to aid Trump. But other people familiar with the meeting said they were told the Kremlin was looking to help Trump's candidacy. The people spoke on condition of anonymity to discussed the classified briefing.

Carrie Cordero, a former Justice Department national security lawyer, lamented the lack of public information about the briefing

and the underlying intelligence, particularly since a recent Senate Intelligence Committee report faulted the Obama administration for not being sufficiently transparent about Russian election interference ahead of the 2016 presidential contest.

She said it remains unclear from the news reporting exactly what message was communicated to the committee.

"What I have really been encouraging is that the government be more forthcoming of information that is more indicative of the current election threats," Cordero said.

Other speakers at the symposium, whose sponsors included the Center for Democracy and Technology and Penn State Dickinson Law, focused on more domestic threats to election security.

Lawrence Norden, the director of the Election Reform Program at the Brennan Center for Justice, said he was concerned that there were no federal regulations governing the vendors who supply local election infrastructure.

"I do think this is a real weakness going into 2020, and the solution as always in elections is to hope for the best and prepare for the worst," Norden said.

Meanwhile, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York, along with Democratic Sens. Sherrod Brown of Ohio and Robert Menendez of New Jersey, sent a letter Monday to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urging sanctions for "all those determined to be responsible for ongoing elections interference," including Russia President Vladimir Putin. □

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# Who is No. 1? Whoever gets to fill out 2020 Census form

By MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)** — It's a question spouses, domestic partners and roommates are going to be forced to confront in the next few weeks as they fill out their 2020 Census forms: Who gets to be the primary person in the household?

Everyone else who lives in the home has to be identified on the form by how they are related to so-called "Person 1." It's a question that even the most egalitarian homes are going to have to figure out — though it's sure to spark some intriguing conversations.

For married couple Debbie Kleinberg and Frankie Huff, it's a no-brainer.

"Me, because anytime Frankie has paperwork, I do it," said Kleinberg, a credit administrator, who lives with her college-professor wife in an Orlando suburb. Kleinberg says the 2020 Census-answering process in their home will follow a familiar pattern.

"The notice will come in the mail. It will sit on the kitchen table for a couple of days, or weeks. It may even get lost, and we will find it after sorting through a pile of bills later," Kleinberg said.

But she will eventually fill it out.

"Being introverts, we don't want anyone knocking on our door," she said.

Deciding who fills out the questionnaire may force spouses or domestic partners to talk about power dynamics they might not have discussed for 10 years, since the last time there was a decennial census, said Diana Betz, an assistant professor of psychology at Loyola University Maryland. In some households, she added, the topic might never have come up.

That could mean contemplating whether having a bigger salary or a more important job title trumps the traditional gender norms a couple may have settled into, or if doing more for a household through domestic chores or child-raising gives someone the claim,



In this Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020, Diana Betz, an assistant professor of psychology at Loyola University Maryland, poses at her home in Crofton, Md.

Associated Press

Betz said. In Betz's home, her husband, an economist, will be filling out the questionnaire when it first becomes available in mid-March, but that's only because he wrote his dissertation about the census. "So, that's a complicating factor," she said.

The 2020 form says "Person 1" should be someone who pays the rent or owns the home. If nobody meets that description, "start by listing any adult living here as Person 1," according to the form.

Knowing how everyone else is related to "Person 1" helps the Census Bureau understand the different types of households there are, and their numbers, such as family households with a grandparent living in the home.

Until 40 years ago, Person 1 was called "head of household" or "head of family." But the U.S. Census Bureau stopped using those monikers as more women were entering the workforce and fewer men were the sole breadwinners. "Householder" also is used to describe the person to whom the relationship of all other household members is recorded.

The most recent American Community Survey offers a sneak-peak of how the genders of "Person 1" may break down in the 2020

Census — and it points to a fairly even divide.

In 2018, there were a total of 79 million households with families. In 41 million of those homes, the householder was a man, and in 38 million homes, the householder was a woman.

This year, there are more options on the census form for describing how people are related to Person 1 since the Census Bureau has added categories like "opposite-sex unmarried partner," "same-sex husband/wife/spouse" and "same-sex unmarried partner." The change came after the 2010 census when the form only had "husband or wife" and "unmarried partners" to describe romantic attachments. Several studies have theorized that same-sex couples from the 2010 census were inflated due to unintentional mis-markings by confused heterosexual married couples.

Unlike in years past, most people won't be filling out the form by hand and mailing it back. Instead, the Census Bureau is encouraging a majority of respondents to answer the questions online, although people also will be able to answer by telephone and by mailing in their responses. Census workers will be sent out to knock on the doors of homes of people who haven't responded by

May. The 2020 Census will help determine how \$1.5 trillion in federal spending is distributed as well as how many congressional seats each state gets.

The Census Bureau offers no guidance on how to sort out who comes first.

When asked how people should decide who in their home gets to respond, Census Bureau director Steven Dillingham said he wasn't going to venture an opinion, "just as long as someone is answering and we get a self-response."

And who will be filling out the form in his home?

"That's a good question," Dillingham said.

"Hopefully, I'm home and maybe it will be me. But if not, my wife will do a great job." □

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# Crackdown on immigrants who use public benefits takes effect

By ANITA SNOW

Associated Press

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Pastor Antonio Velasquez says that before the Trump administration announced a crackdown on immigrants using government social services, people lined up before sunrise outside a state office in a largely Latino Phoenix neighborhood to sign up for food stamps and Medicaid.

No more.

"You had to arrive at 3 in the morning, and it might take you until the end of the day," he said, pointing behind the office in the Maryvale neighborhood to show how long the lines got.

But no one lined up one recent weekday morning, and there were just a handful of people inside.

With new rules taking effect Monday that disqualify more people from green cards if they use government benefits, droves of immigrants, including citizens and legal residents, have dropped social services they or their children may be entitled to out of fear they will be kicked out of the U.S., said Velasquez and other advocates.

"This will bring more poverty, more homeless, more illness," said Velasquez, a well-known leader among Spanish-speaking immigrants in the Phoenix area. Advocates around the U.S. gathered Monday to discuss and criticize the policy. Participants at a New York City roundtable said that in anticipation of the change, neighborhoods with higher immigrant populations had seen enrollment declines in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, known as WIC. They also urged immigrants to get legal advice on how they may be affected.

In Boston, the Rev. Dieufort Fleurissant said some Haitian immigrants worry that accepting benefits could keep their relatives from coming to the U.S.

Bethany Li, of Greater Boston Legal Services, said Chinese families are passing on WIC benefits not

covered by the new rules. The guidelines that aim to determine whether immigrants seeking legal residency may become a gov-

handled the litigation inconsistently in their desire to give Trump a victory.

White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham said

and housing vouchers.

The chilling effect spreading through immigrant communities recalls how millions of refugees dumped social

said the guidelines are so complicated that there have even been reports of parents dropping their kids' free school lunches, which are not affected.

Gelatt noted that the rules apply only to social services used after Monday and do not affect citizens or most green card holders. Refugees vetted by federal agencies before their arrival, as well as people who obtain asylum, are not affected.

The guidelines don't apply to many programs for children and pregnant and postnatal women, including Head Start early childhood education and WIC. Nevertheless, Stephanie Santiago, who manages two Phoenix-area clinics for the nonprofit Mountain Park Health Center, said during the last three months of 2019 she suddenly saw scores of immigrants drop those and other benefits.

"People are very scared about the rules," Santiago said. "The sad thing is that they even drop the services their U.S. citizen kids qualify for. A lot of these kids are going to school sick or their parents are paying out of pocket for services they should get for free."

Cynthia Aragon, outreach coordinator for the nonprofit Helping Families in Need in Phoenix, said that because of the confusion, she is steering people to private sources of aid, like food banks and church-run clinics.

"I think people will start applying for government services again after it becomes clearer how things are going to work," Aragon said. "In the meantime, we tell immigrants to look for some of the other resources out there and don't feel like a victim." □



In this Jan. 31, 2019, file photo, hundreds of people overflow onto the sidewalk in a line snaking around the block outside a U.S. immigration office with numerous courtrooms in San Francisco.

Associated Press

ernment burden are part of the Trump administration's broader effort to reduce immigration, particularly among poorer people.

The rules that critics say amount to a "wealth test" were set to take effect in October but were delayed by legal challenges alleging a violation of due process under the U.S. Constitution. The Supreme Court last month cleared the way for the Trump administration to move forward while the rules were litigated in the courts.

A 5-4 vote Friday by the high court sided with the Trump administration by lifting a last injunction covering just Illinois, giving White House adviser Stephen Miller and other hardliners a resounding win in one of their boldest attempts to limit legal immigration.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor issued a blistering dissent, criticizing the administration for quickly turning to the Supreme Court after facing losses in lower courts and suggesting that her conservative colleagues

Saturday that the change will "reestablish the fundamental legal principle that newcomers to our society should be financially self-reliant and not dependent on the largess of United States taxpayers."

Ken Cuccinelli, acting deputy Homeland Security secretary, said Monday on Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends" that the change is "not a moral judgment on individuals, it is an economic one."

He said the government expects "people seeking to be long-term immigrants here, and maybe join us as citizens, will be able to stand on their own two feet." He said the rules were "a major priority for the president."

Federal law already requires those seeking to permanent residency or legal status to prove they will not be a burden to the U.S. — a "public charge," in government lingo. But the new rules include a wider range of programs that could disqualify them, including using Medicaid, food stamps

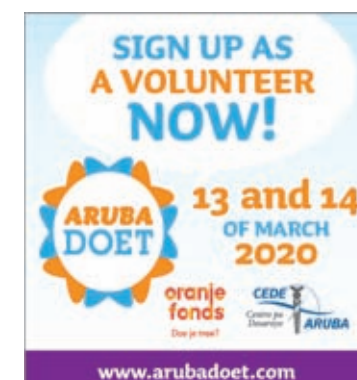
services during the welfare changes of the 1990s, even though the legislation that prompted the cuts explicitly exempted them.

Nazanin Ash, Washington-based vice president for global policy and advocacy for the nonprofit International Rescue Committee, pointed to research showing some 37 percent of refugees exempted from the Clinton-era changes in welfare benefits dropped food stamps they were entitled to.

Ash said the Trump administration rules would likely cause similar hardships for immigrants who contribute to the American economy. "To call them a burden on society is factually incorrect," she said.

The nonprofit Migration Policy Institute in Washington said in an August policy paper that it expects "a significant share" of the nearly 23 million noncitizens and U.S. citizens in immigrant families who use public benefits will drop them.

Julia Gelatt, a senior policy analyst with the institute,





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## Pioneering black NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson dies

By BEN FINLEY  
Associated Press

Katherine Johnson, a mathematician who calculated rocket trajectories and earth orbits for NASA's early space missions and was later portrayed in the 2016 hit film "Hidden Figures," about pioneering black female aerospace workers, has died. She was 101.

Johnson died Monday of natural causes at a retirement community in Newport News, Virginia, family attorney Donyale Y. H. Reavis told The Associated Press.

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said in a statement that Johnson "helped our nation enlarge the frontiers of space even as she made huge strides that also opened doors for women and people of color."

Johnson was one of the "computers" who solved equations by hand during NASA's early years and those of its precursor organization, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

Johnson and other black women initially worked in a racially segregated computing unit in Hampton, Virginia, that wasn't officially dissolved until NACA became NASA in 1958. Signs had dictated which bathrooms the women could use.

Johnson focused on airplanes and other research at first. But her work at NASA's Langley Research Center eventually shifted to Project Mercury, the nation's first human space program.

"Our office computed all the (rocket) trajectories," Johnson told The Virginian-Pilot newspaper in 2012.

"You tell me when and where you want it to come down, and I will tell you where and when and how to launch it."

In 1961, Johnson did trajectory analysis for Alan Shepard's Freedom 7 Mission, the first to carry an American into space. The next year, she manually verified the calculations of a nascent NASA computer, an IBM 7090, which plotted John Glenn's orbits around the planet.

"Get the girl to check the numbers," a computer-skeptical Glenn had insisted in the days before the launch.

"Katherine organized herself immediately at her desk, growing phone-book-thick stacks of data sheets a number at a time, blocking out everything except the labyrinth of trajectory equations," Margot Lee Shetterly wrote in her 2016 book "Hidden Figures," on which the film is based. "It took a day and a half of watching the tiny digits pile up: eye-numbing, disorienting work," Shetterly wrote. Shetterly told the AP that Johnson was "exceptional in every way."

"The wonderful gift that Katherine Johnson gave us is that her story shined a light on the stories of so many other people," Shetterly said Monday. "She gave us a new way to look at black history, women's history and American history." Johnson considered her work on the Apollo moon missions to be her greatest contribution to space exploration. Her calculations helped the lunar lander rendezvous with the orbiting command service module. She also worked on the



In this Feb. 26, 2017, file photo Janelle Monáe, left, Taraji P. Henson, second right and Octavia Spencer, right, introduce Katherine Johnson, seated, the inspiration for "Hidden Figures," as they present the award for best documentary feature at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. Associated Press

Space Shuttle program before retiring in 1986.

Johnson and her co-workers had been relatively unsung heroes of America's Space Race. But in 2015, President Barack Obama awarded Johnson — then 97 — the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

The "Hidden Figures" book and film followed, telling the stories of Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, among others. Johnson was portrayed in the film by actress Taraji P. Henson. The film was nominated for a Best Picture Oscar and grossed more than \$200 million worldwide.

In 2017, Johnson was brought on stage at the Academy Awards ceremony to thunderous applause. Jackson and Vaughan had died in 2005 and 2008 respectively.

Johnson was born Katherine Coleman on August 26, 1918, in White Sulphur

Springs, West Virginia, near the Virginia border. The small town had no schools for blacks beyond the eighth grade, she told The Richmond Times-Dispatch in 1997.

Each September, her father drove Johnson and her siblings to Institute, West Virginia, for high school and college on the campus of the historically black West Virginia State College.

Johnson taught at black public schools before becoming one of three black students to integrate West Virginia's graduate schools in 1939.

She left after the first session to start a family with her first husband, James Goble, and returned to teaching when her three daughters grew older. In 1953, she started working at the all-black West Area Computing unit at what was then called Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory in Hampton. Johnson's first

husband died in 1956. She married James A. Johnson in 1959. He died last year.

Johnson is survived by two of her three daughters, six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, said Reavis, the family attorney. Johnson spent her later years encouraging students to enter the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. "Just last week, she was giving an interview to a high schooler who wanted to talk to her in French," Reavis said. "She had two degrees. One in French, and one in Mathematics."

Looking back, Johnson said she had little time to worry about being treated unequally.

"My dad taught us 'you are as good as anybody in this town, but you're no better,'" Johnson told NASA in 2008. "I don't have a feeling of inferiority. Never had. I'm as good as anybody, but no better." □



# Italy tries to contain virus as isolated towns hunker down

By **PAOLO SANTALUCIA, GIADA ZAMPANO and NICOLE WINFIELD**  
Associated Press

**CODOGNO, Italy (AP)** — Police manned checkpoints around quarantined towns in Italy's north on Monday and residents stocked up on food as the country became the focal point of the outbreak in Europe and fears of its cross-border spread.

Croatia, Hungary and Ireland advised against travel to the affected areas, and Italians traveling abroad began to feel the effects of a crackdown: A bus from Milan was barricaded by police in the French city of Lyon for health checks for several hours before being deemed to be virus-free and sent on its way; Alitalia passengers arriving in Mauritius were threatened with quarantine.

Civil protection officials said at least 229 people have tested positive for the virus in Italy. State television on Monday night reported the seventh death of an infected person — that of a 62-year-old man who al-



Tourists, some of them wearing sanitary masks, stand next to the Vittorio Emanuele Gallery in downtown Milan, Italy, Monday, Feb. 24, 2020.

Associated Press

ready had serious health problems. The other six victims, also with pre-existing medical conditions, were elderly.

The majority of those known to be infected with COVID-19 hail from two main clusters — some 10 towns in Lombardy and another area in the neighbor-

ing region of Veneto. Italy has the highest number of cases outside Asia, underscoring the limits of Italy's prevention protocols, the most stringent in Europe. Officials still hadn't pinpointed the origin of Italy's outbreak or whether the clusters were related. With the numbers rising, authorities were struggling to contain the number of cases, which by Monday had spread to a half-dozen regions and prompted Austria to temporarily halt rail traffic across its border with Italy.

"These rapid developments over the weekend have shown how quickly this situation can change," EU Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides said in Brussels. "We need to take this situation of course very seriously, but we must not give in to panic, and, even more importantly, to disinformation."

On Tuesday, Kyriakides will meet in Rome with Italy's health ministers, those from bordering countries — Austria, France, Slovenia and Switzerland, as well as the ministers from Germany and Croatia.

For Italians barricaded in the dozen small towns around the two main clusters of the outbreak, the outlook for the next two weeks appeared bleak, with the only order of busi-

ness getting enough food in the house, keeping distance from one another and getting tested.

"This wasn't a very exciting place to begin with," said Andrea Casalis, a 27-year-old from Vo'Euganeo, a town of 3,500 people at the epicenter of the Veneto cluster. "Since we can't go to the bar, there's no much left to do."

Casalis had been due to start a new job in the food sector a few miles out of town, but that is now on hold — evidence of the cascading economic effect the outbreak is beginning to wreak on the northern powerhouse of Italy's economy.

"I try to stay optimistic, but the perception of what's going on changes subjectively," he said.

While Italian authorities canceled soccer matches, Masses and closed schools, museums, theaters and even Venice's famed Carnival, they also sought to calm fears by noting the virus' low mortality rate.

Speaking on state-run RAI news, virologist Ilaria Capua of the University of Florida noted that Italy's high number of cases were due to the fact that Italy was "actively seeking them out." More than 3,000 people have been tested for the virus, most of whom had direct contact with those

infected. "It is likely that the more we look, the more we will find," Capua said. But she stressed that the majority of cases likely wouldn't even require a doctor's visit and that Italy's numbers are "very analogous to what we will see in many other European countries." Civil protection officials insisted that Italy was still a safe place to visit. Veneto regional president Luca Zaia lamented that he never imagined he would ever have to cancel Venice's Carnival — another economic blow to the famed lagoon city that already saw tourism plummet after last year's floods.

Italy, however, wasn't taking chances and effectively sealed off a dozen northern towns where more than 200 of the cases were found.

On Monday, police wearing face masks manned checkpoints along the road into Codogno, southeast of Milan, where the first patient to test positive for the virus was hospitalized last week.

Residents wearing face masks and gloves lined up at Codogno's supermarket to stock up on food, only to find out the market was still closed on orders of the mayor. Later, groups of four at a time were allowed into the bakery in nearby Casalpusterlengo, and one at a time into the pharmacy.

Italian farm lobby Coldiretti reported a 5%-10% increase in fresh fruit and produce purchases this weekend across the country, as Italians stocked up fearing possible future quarantines even in regions that hadn't registered any cases. Hand disinfectant and face masks were in short supply; in Genoa — which hasn't had any cases — the supermarket shelves were empty.

Civil protection chief Angelo Borrelli acknowledged that there were some supply issues with the virus test kits, and Lombardy officials announced they were no longer automatically testing people who had come into contact with infected patients. □



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# German man drives car into Carnival crowd, injures 30

By DAVID RISING and  
FRANK JORDANS  
Associated Press

**BERLIN (AP)** — A man intentionally drove a car into a crowd at a Carnival parade in a small town in central Germany, injuring around 30 people including children, officials said Monday.  
The driver, a 29-year-old German citizen who lived

locally, was arrested at the scene in Volkarsen near Kassel, about 280 kilometers (175 miles) southwest of Berlin, prosecutors said. He is being investigated on suspicion of attempted homicide.  
A spokesman for Frankfurt prosecutors, Alexander Badle, said in a statement that "about 30 people" were injured. They were



Police and rescue workers stand next to the scene of the accident with a car that is said to have crashed into a carnival parade in Volkarsen, central Germany, Monday, Feb. 24, 2020.

Associated Press

taken to surrounding hospitals, some with life-threatening injuries.

The suspect was also injured, said Badle.

"The investigation, especially into the circumstances of the crime, continues," he said. "In particular, no information can yet be provided about a motive. The investigation is exploring all avenues."

"This is a terrible act committed against people who simply wanted to celebrate Carnival," said Peter Beuth, the interior minister for the state of Hesse, where Volk-

marsen is located. He declined to comment on reports that a second person was detained following the crash.

Beuth said about a third of those injured were children, who had come to watch the parade and collect candy that's traditionally thrown into the crowds at Carnival celebrations in Germany.

Chancellor Angela Merkel sent her condolences to those injured in the crash, wishing them a speedy and full recovery. She also thanked the police and

all medical personnel involved.

Emergency responders set up a makeshift clinic in a town pharmacy to treat casualties with minor injuries, the regional Frankfurter Rundschau newspaper reported.

Witnesses said the car drove around a barrier blocking off traffic from the parade, according to the paper.

Video from the scene showed a silver Mercedes station wagon with local license plates on a sidewalk, its front windshield badly smashed and hood dented, and its hazard lights blinking, while emergency crews walked by. Forensic experts could be seen taking photos and measurements around the crashed car, walking around fragments of Carnival costumes that littered the ground.

The crash came amid the height of Germany's celebration of Carnival, with the biggest parades in Cologne, Duesseldorf and Mainz.

All other Carnival parades in the central state of Hesse were ended Monday as a precaution. □



Local residents gather at a roadblock near Mandamados village on the northeastern Aegean island of Lesbos, Greece, Monday, Feb. 24, 2020.

Associated Press

## Greek island protesters vow to stop new migrant camps

By MICHAEL VARAKLAS  
and COSTAS KANTOURIS  
Associated Press

**LESBOS, Greece (AP)** — Protest groups on three eastern Greek islands on Monday began setting up blockades aimed at stopping the government from building new migrant detention centers. The groups on Lesbos, Chios, and Samos have received broad support on the islands, including from municipal authorities and farming associations.

The government says it is determined to build detention centers on recently appropriated land to replace overcrowded camps on the islands — announcing that construction would resume this week after a brief break for consultations. But many islanders fear that new facilities will only increase the number of migrants and refugees after the government failed to deliver on a pledge to ease overcrowding over the winter months.

"We are guarding the (appropriated) area, and if they start building, everyone here and from the surrounding villages will join the protest — because we don't want this," Stephanos Apostolou, a protest organizer and municipal council member from the village of Mandamados on Lesbos, told The Associated Press. Greece remains the European Union's busiest entry point for refugees and migrants, with nearly 4,000 making the winter crossing from Turkey to Greek islands this year through Feb. 16, according to data from the United Nations refugee agency.

Croatia's Foreign and European Affairs Minister Gordan Grlic-Radman, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the European Union, said its priority was to improve screening mechanisms to separate legitimate asylum seekers from other migrants entering the 27-nation bloc. □

## Outrage in Croatia after effigy burned of same-sex couple

By DARKO BANDIC  
Associated Press

**ZAGREB, Croatia (AP)** — Croatia's president and government joined activists Monday in expressing outrage at the burning during a carnival of an effigy showing a same-sex couple with their child.

The incident occurred Sunday in the southern town of Imotski. A large effigy showing two men embracing each other was torched in front of cheering festival goers to the sound of the funeral music.

President Zoran Milanovic condemned the incident as an "inhumane, totally unacceptable act." He demanded that the organizers apologize, while an LGBT group announced legal action.

"The event was observed

by many children who could witness the spreading of hatred and inciting to violence," Milanovic said in a statement.

Croatia's government also said it is opposed to "any form of hate speech of aggression ... and any act that insults the feelings of the Croatian people and contributes to the divisions within society," the official Hina news agency reported.

Burning of effigies is a satirical tradition at Croatia's carnivals, often representing public figures or politicians. Past incidents included the burning of a children's book about same-sex families in 2018 and last year's torching of an effigy of a Croatian Serb politician.

Sunday's move follows a

recent ruling by Croatia's top court against discrimination of same-sex couples when it comes to acting as foster parents.

The Constitutional Court ruling in January was hailed as a major step forward in boosting gay rights in Croatia. But it also angered many in the predominantly conservative Catholic nation.

Croatia, which currently holds the six-month, rotating presidency of the European Union, has allowed same-sex partnerships since 2014, but gay couples are not allowed to adopt children. Milanovic, a liberal, was Croatia's prime minister at the time. He beat a conservative former president in a runoff vote last month to become Croatia's new head of state. □



# Malaysian king accepts Mahathir's resignation amid upheaval

By EILEEN NG

Associated Press

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia**

(AP) — Malaysia's king on Monday accepted Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's shocking resignation but reappointed him as interim leader following the collapse of the ruling alliance in a major political upheaval less than two years after its historic election victory.

The stunning turn of events come amid plans by Mahathir's supporters in his Bersatu party to team up with opposition parties to form a new government and thwart the transition of power to his named successor, Anwar Ibrahim.

Minutes before Mahathir tendered his resignation to the palace, Bersatu said it would leave the four-party Alliance of Hope and support Mahathir as prime minister. Eleven other lawmakers, including several Cabinet ministers, announced they were quitting Anwar's party to form an independent bloc.

Bersatu later said Mahathir had also quit as party chairman. The withdrawal of more than three dozen lawmakers means the ruling alliance has lost its majority in Parliament, throwing the country into an uncertain future and sparking fears of more turmoil over



In this Feb. 22, 2020, file photo, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, speaks during a press conference in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

Associated Press

how the political drama will play out.

King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, who met leaders from the new faction on Sunday and both Anwar and Mahathir on Monday, accepted Mahathir's resignation, the chief secretary to the government, Mohamad Zuki Ali, said in a statement.

Mohamad Zuki said the king also decided Mahathir should continue as interim leader until a new prime minister is chosen and a new Cabinet formed. He said the king also dissolved

the Cabinet on Mahathir's advice, essentially sealing the breakup of the current government.

The king's decision helped bring some political stability to the country after the series of dizzying events unraveled Sunday with maneuvers aimed at keeping Mahathir in power and blocking Anwar from the top job. Horse trading is expected as both factions scramble to build enough support to take power.

Anwar said Monday after meeting with Mahathir and with other alliance lead-

ers that Mahathir was not involved in the conspiracy and had quit because he didn't want to be associated with the former corrupt regime that he worked hard to oust in the 2018 polls.

"His name was used, by those within my party and outside," Anwar told reporters. Mahathir "reiterated to me what he had said earlier, that he played no part in it and he made it very clear, that in no way will he ever work with those associated with the past regime." Anwar said he pleaded

with Mahathir to stay on to jointly defeat the conspirators but he refused.

Anwar was Mahathir's deputy during Mahathir's first stint as prime minister but they fell out politically. The pair reunited in a political pact in the May 2018 election, which ousted a ruling coalition that has governed the country since independence from Britain in 1957. Tension has erupted as Mahathir refused to set a date to relinquish power despite a preelection agreement to hand over power to Anwar.

The political plot by the defectors would include an alliance with the Malay party of disgraced former leader Najib Razak, who with several of his party leaders are standing trial on corruption charges. It would also recruit a fundamentalist Islamic party that rules two states and champions Islamic laws. The two Malay parties still have strong support from ethnic Malays, who account for 60% of Malaysia's 32 million people.

The political drama came just two days after all of the parties in the now-crumbling alliance agreed that Mahathir alone should decide when he would step down after Malaysia hosts an Asia-Pacific regional meeting in November. □

## Protests, prayers in Indian capital ahead of Trump's visit

By RISHI LEKHI and ASHOK SHARMA

Associated Press

**NEW DELHI (AP)** — As President Donald Trump was being feted by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the western Indian city of Ahmedabad on Monday, Hindu nationalist and communist groups held pro- and anti-U.S. street demonstrations in the capital.

One police officer was killed in the violence, police officer Anuj Kumar said. Eleven police officers also were injured as they were hit by rocks trying to separate rival groups, the New Delhi police control room said.

The Press Trust of India news agency said three protesters also were killed during clashes in several parts of the Indian capital. There was no confirmation by the police of the news report.

A group of Hindu nationalists held a prayer meeting in which they put a vermilion mark on the forehead of Trump's photograph on a poster, blessing him, while a priest chanted Hindu hymns wishing Trump success in his endeavor for strong ties with India.

He said he wanted Trump and Modi to fight radical Islam and the spread of terrorism.

Elsewhere in New Delhi,



Indian police detain members of Centre of Indian Trade Unions protesting against the visit of U.S. President Donald Trump to India, in Hyderabad, India, Monday, Feb. 24, 2020.

Associated Press

dozens of supporters of the Communist Party of India carried a banner reading "Trump go back."

Anti-Trump street demonstrations also broke out in the cities of Gauhati in the northeast, Kolkata in the

east and Hyderabad in the south.

Doraisamy Raja, the Communist Party's general secretary, accused Modi of succumbing to U.S. pressure on access to the Indian market rather than protecting India's interests. American dairy farmers, distillers and drugmakers have been eager to break into India, the world's seventh-biggest economy, but talks between Washington and New Delhi appeared to have fizzled.

Still, the two leaders are scheduled to announce agreements at a news conference on Tuesday, capping off Trump's two-day visit. □



# Informal truce in jeopardy for Israel-Islamic Jihad fight

By JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — An informal cease-fire meant to end two days of fighting between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip appeared to be unraveling late Monday, threatening to unleash a new round of violence just a week before Israeli national elections. Islamic Jihad announced a unilateral cease-fire Monday evening, saying it had completed its "retaliation" for the deaths of three of its members, but threatening to respond to any Israeli "aggression." Within hours, it accused Israel of continuing to attack and resumed rocket fire, setting off air-raid sirens in southern Israel. "The enemy did not commit itself into stopping its aggression we we resumed based on the fire-for-fire principle," said Abu Hamza, spokesman of the group's armed wing.

Residents in Gaza reported Israeli airstrikes late Monday. Israel also announced it was closing its border crossings with Gaza, halting cargo deliveries to the blockaded territory and preventing travelers and workers from exiting. It also said it would not allow Gaza's fishermen to go out to sea.

Earlier in the day, Israeli aircraft had pounded dozens of targets in the Gaza Strip while Islamic Jihad militants bombarded southern Israel with heavy rocket fire. Israel also expanded its retaliation to Syria, where some of the Iranian-backed group's leaders are based, killing two more Islamic Jihad militants in an overnight airstrike.

There were no reports of civilian casualties on either side.



Rockets are launched from the Gaza Strip towards Israel, Monday, Feb. 24, 2020.

Associated Press

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, locked in the final days of a divisive election campaign, ramped up his rhetoric. He threatened Gaza's Hamas rulers with a stepped-up operation if the rocket fire continued. "I'm talking about a war," he told Israel's Army Radio station. "I only go to war as a last option, but we have prepared something you can't even imagine."

Despite the tough rhetoric, both sides had an interest in ending the fighting quickly. For Netanyahu, the violence has drawn unwanted attention to his inability to halt years of attacks and rocket fire by Gaza militants. Islamic Jihad, meanwhile, has been exposed in the past few months as a relatively weak and disorganized group — acting more as a spoiler capable of undermining cease-fire efforts than a serious military threat to Israel.

In recent months, Israel has worked with U.N. and Egyptian mediators to cement an informal cease-

fire with Hamas, the much larger Islamic militant group that has governed Gaza for more than a decade. These "understandings" have eased a painful Israeli blockade that has ravaged Gaza's economy, in exchange for Hamas guarantees to maintain quiet. Israel's late-night announcement that it was closing the border crossings reimposed some of those restrictions.

The United Nations' Mideast envoy Nickolay Mladenov, a key player in the truce efforts, had tweeted Monday calling for "an IMMEDIATE stop to the firing of rockets that only risks dragging Gaza into another destructive round of hostilities with no end in sight!"

While Hamas has honored the truce, Islamic Jihad has continued to carry out attacks. The latest round of fighting erupted early Sunday after Israel killed an Islamic Jihad militant it said was planting explosives along the border.

An Israeli military bulldozer pushed into Gaza to retrieve his body. Footage of

the bulldozer lifting the lifeless body and dangling it off the front of the vehicle quickly spread on Palestinian social media, drawing angry comments and putting pressure on the militants to respond.

Islamic Jihad militants began firing rockets late Sunday, and had launched 80 rockets by the time the cease-fire was announced, according to the Israeli military. It said over 90% of the rockets were intercepted. But one projectile slammed into an empty playground in the southern Israeli town of Sderot, causing damage to a large slide.

Schools were closed in Israeli areas adjacent to Gaza, roads shut and restrictions placed on outdoor public gatherings.

It was the heaviest round of fighting since November, when Israel and Islamic Jihad engaged in a two-day battle after Israel killed one of the group's top commanders.

The latest Israeli airstrikes targeted only Islamic Jihad positions. But Israel holds

Gaza's Hamas rulers responsible for all fire coming out of the coastal enclave, and could expand its response.

Israel and Hamas have fought three wars and numerous skirmishes since the Islamic militant group seized control of Gaza from the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority in 2007. Still, Netanyahu appeared to be reluctant to pick a fight with Hamas so close to next Monday's election. Hamas is much more powerful than Islamic Jihad, and it has shown itself capable of barraging Israel with rocket fire for weeks at a time.

Hamas, which remained on the sidelines, also has little interest in renewed fighting at a time when it is trying to improve living conditions for the territory it controls.

Netanyahu's opponents have criticized him for his understandings with the group, accusing him of caving in to violence to keep things quiet.

"Netanyahu, the country is under fire. Get on helping it," said Netanyahu's chief rival, former military commander Benny Gantz, leader of the opposition Blue and White Party. "The people of the south deserve better."

The election will be Israel's third in under a year, after two inconclusive votes last year.

Netanyahu, locked in a tight race with Gantz, has tried to focus the campaign away from his upcoming trial on corruption charges by presenting himself as an experienced statesman who is best-suited to protecting Israel's security. He appeared to have little interest in prolonged fighting so close to election day.

Tamar Hermann, an expert on Israeli public opinion at the Israel Democracy Institute think tank, said that after so many previous rounds of fighting, she did not expect the latest violence to have an impact on voters. "It's expected and people are used to it, and resilience is not being eroded because of such 'normal events,'" she said. □





## Brazilian transgender dancer shatters Carnival parade taboo

By MAURICIO SAVARESE

Associated Press

**SAO PAULO (AP)** — When dancer Camila Prins entered Sao Paulo's Carnival parade grounds, a costume of feathers clinging to her sinuous body, she fulfilled a dream of feminine beauty nearly three decades old.

Prins says she first realized she wanted to be a woman at a Carnival party at age 11, when, like the other boys, she was allowed to dress like a girl as part of the burlesque festivities. Now, in the final minutes of Saturday, she became the first transgender woman to lead the drum section of a top samba school in either of the renowned Carnival parades put in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

Prins, 40, was hand-picked to be "godmother" of the Colorado do Brás samba school's drum section, an iconic role fought over by dozens of models and TV celebrities. Her duty was to dance infectiously for 65 minutes in front of the drummers, using her legs to drive their rhythm while judges assessed the school's parade. "Gorgeous women wanted to be here. I'm very excited because this shows we can be anywhere. We can be godmother of the drummers, we can be owners of a samba school," Prins told The Associated Press before the parade. "Soon they will see many other transgender girls, who will find it easier than I did."

Colorado do Brás, which



Transgender godmother Camila Prins, representing the Colorado do Bras samba school, performs at Carnival in the Sambadrome in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020.

Associated Press

rose to Sao Paulo's top samba league only two years ago, made a bold decision in picking Prins for the role, despite Brazil's Carnival being a party at which few things have never been tried.

Transgender people remain something of a taboo among Brazilians, even in Sao Paulo, the country's most cosmopolitan city and host to the world's largest gay pride parade. Brazil has more slayings of transvestites and transgender people than any country in the world. In 2019, 124 were killed, 21 of them in Sao Paulo state.

As godmother of the drum section, Prins teamed up with a drum queen who has

a similar role, and together they worked to dazzle fans in the Sambadrome bleachers with their beauty and sex appeal. Prins said she was counting on her penetrating brown eyes, long blond hair, strong legs, open smile and imposing breasts to help win points from the judges.

Colorado do Brás finished the 2019 parade in 11th place, only two spots above the cutoff for being relegated back to a lower league. Directors of the samba school decided to try for something different this year, since the group has fewer resources than richer samba schools. Its floats and costumes were clearly less luxurious than

the main challengers for the title.

Keila Simpson, president of Brazil's National Association of Transvestites and Transsexuals, was happy Prins secured her prominent Carnival role, and said their community aims to make cases like hers the new normal.

"We have to be proud of Camila and hope her symbolic message allows us to think of reducing violence against trans people. Why can people celebrate her at the Sambadrome while trans people on the street are subject to violence?" Simpson said. "We don't have data, but there are many violent cases against us during Carnival. Because

there's more of us outside, there's more attacks."

Sao Paulo is trying to root out persecution of LGBT people during Carnival, and this year set up 20 tents spread among major street parties to handle cases of violence against the community. Psychologists, police officers and social workers are on hand until Wednesday for revelers who are victimized.

English teacher Alessandra Salvador, a transgender woman who encouraged revelers to come to the city hall tent at the LGBT street party Minhoqueens, said she was excited by Prins' selection. "I don't even watch parades that much, but this year I will when she is on," Salvador said. "It is good to see one of us being talked up. We don't get it so often. If we don't get that in Carnival, we won't get it anywhere else."

It's been a long road for Prins to reach the big leagues. She has worked as a professional dancer for 20 years and, though she lives in a small town in Switzerland with her husband, practices her steps at home all year and listens to samba incessantly. As Carnival nears, she splits her dance routine with ab workouts and squats at a gym, then makes her annual return to Brazil.

Prins' first time dancing as a samba school's godmother came in 2018, in the second division of Sao Paulo's Carnival league. And it wasn't easy. □



Armed off-duty police officers take cover during and exchange of gunfire with army soldiers, as they protest over police pay and working conditions, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020.

Associated Press

## Haiti says soldier died of wounds after shootout with police

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti**

**(AP)** — The Haitian Ministry of Defense said Monday that a soldier has died from wounds suffered during an exchange of gunfire with police officers protesting outside army headquarters.

The ministry said another soldier is in stable condition with a bullet wound.

Haitian police officers exchanged gunfire for hours Sunday with soldiers of the newly reconstituted army

outside the national palace, in an escalation of protests over police pay and working conditions.

At least three men were taken to a hospital near the shooting with wounds to the legs and feet that did not appear to be life-threatening. Uniformed police officers told an AP journalist that the wounded men were fellow officers. The uniformed officers spoke on condition of anonymity because they were

not authorized to speak to the press.

Police protests began this month after a half-dozen officers were fired over their attempt to unionize. The demonstrations are not directly linked to anti-corruption protests that roiled Haiti for most of last year, but they draw on the same widespread dissatisfaction with Haiti's shrinking economy and President Jovenel Moise's inability to improve the quality of life. □



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## Ike's Bistro unveils vegan smorgasbord



**EAGLE BEACH** — Ike's bistro at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa surprises with an excellent, tasteful and varies Vegan Buffet on Friday's. Executive Chef Sandro Herold is obviously enthusiastic about the new concept that fills up the place already. "People nowadays are a bit more conscious about what they eat. This buffet offers a wide variety with creative vegan food items and live cooking." We asked some of the guests about their experience: "delicious", "very tasty" "great food, great setting". Even teens, in general not too fond of health food, applauded the offerings. "We did not even miss the meat"

Vegan is hot now, says the chef, and we had that confirmed by the full restaurant last Friday. Ike's Bistro is an open air restaurant, located in the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa. Under a huge cabana with a

view to the romantically lit pool of the resort you are seated in relaxed chairs and served by great waiters. Live music by singer Lucre Houtman lifts the ambiance and the cherry on the top is the chef's vegan magic.

Your senses are tickled because of the purity and freshness of the buffet food items. The special priced buffet starts off with a Cucumber Martini which can be accompanied by some tapenade crostini, sundried tomatoes, green peas and black olives. A delicious Thai coconut ginger soup could be your next course or maybe some very green and tofulicious maki might enchant you? There is chickpea salad stuffed spinach wrap, jackfruit salad, carrot apple tofu salad, cruditos & mango puree and avocado salad stuffed tomato wrap with plantain. All of those choices embrace your inner senses with their freshness and clear flavors.

For the main course comes the best part, live cooking by the chef himself. An extraordinary experience because Herold is the inventor of the buffet and his enthusiasm is contagious, you want to try it all. "We have soya noodles, basmati rice and fresh veggies topped off with a soya sesame ginger sauce or basil garlic sauce, as you choose." The chef mixes it all in his wok and explains it can be completed



with a choice of the carving station items: beyond meat loaf, lentils loaf, red beets Wellington or grilled sausage. "And if you wish there are beans cooked with plantain or sweet mashed potatoes." This heavenly healthy trip reaches its end destination with a scrumptious dessert variation from blueberry chia pudding to pure chocolate mousse and more.

Vegan might be on the menu in many restaurants nowadays as 'the other option', but here at Ike's Bistro they celebrate vegan and you get hooked, that is a promise. Passion, creativity, purity, dedication to a concept, beautiful setting and the wonderful jazzy voice of Lucre take care of an enchanting experience. Vegan Night Out at Ike's Bistro, you should definitely try! □

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bistro**  
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## Recycled Folk Art

Episode 56- LVI

**ORANJESTAD** — Aruba for being a small island generates an enormous amount of waste. We must realize that this entire waste was once on a container as import. Recycling is an essential action to reduce waste that will be otherwise dumped in the environment. Within this action two approaches have emerged as possible solutions.



A skate board bench

The first is down cycling and the other upcycling. In the former, the break down process is accelerated at a high cost and hardly sustainable if not all details are followed as planned and budgeted available applied as efficient necessary. The result must benefit nature and citizen as a result of the process, while in the latter all waste has a value that can be increased through creative intervention. Our island waste impasse deserves a creative solution and a pragmatic intervention. In our experiment with upcycling our initial design led to the emergence of our native living lab and atelier at Westpunt Aruba known as Etnia Nativa. A project that incorporated recollected materials during every phases of its construction process. The same was applied in the building of artifacts furniture and

artworks which are part of the decoration, such as lamps, masks, shells and bones feathers and seeds etc. Upcycled art or upcycling art is currently inspiring many artists around the world and prevents tons of garbage to reach dumping grounds. Dumping must be seen and treated as a critical message regarding excessive consumption and environmental pollution. Transform waste such as paper, cardboard, wood, glass, plastics, metals and rubber into works of art that carries a message will impact the connoisseur. The concept, therefore, goes beyond the conventional recycling of materials by creating objects that exceed the economic, cultural and social value of the original product.

Continued on Page 15



Building with recycled materials



Bat Shaman. Art work made completely out of recollected materials



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## Recycled Folk Art

Continued from Page 14

Transforming waste or recycle it into folk art is the creative expression of the human struggle toward civilization within a particular environment through the production of useful but aesthetic buildings and objects in the process of reducing waste.

Art has a role in cultural continuity and change. It is used to stabilize cultures by perpetuating the convictions of the identity and accomplishments of individuals and groups.

By calling folk art the "art of the people?"

The answer is not simple, for the subject is clogged with conjecture, controversy, and gaps in information.

Calling it native art makes it yet more confusing, however both differs from primitive art.

The scope of folk art is extremely broad, including the entire craft and creativity of the people.

Generally, folk art is ART that is may be used every day or reserved for high ceremonial ocations; it may include handmade elements, as well as new, synthetic, or recycled components.

May be decorative or utilitarian.

May be made for use within a com-

munity of practice or it may be produced for sale as a form of income and empowerment.

May be learned formally or informally; folk art may also be self-taught.

May include intangible forms of expressive culture like dance, song, poetry, and foodways

Is traditional; it reflects shared cultural aesthetics and social issues. It is recognized that, as traditions are dynamic, traditional folk art may change over time and may include innovations in tradition.

Folk art is of, by, and for the people. Folk art is for all people without distinction of class, state, culture, community, ethnicity, gender and religion. □



## Episode 56- LVI



Lamp covers made out of recycled metal sheets





## Uncle Louis Store's renovation a fact

**SAN NICOLAS — After a nine months restoration work, the Uncle Louis Store building in San Nicolas has been inaugurated. The Monument Fund of Aruba (SMFA) who purchased and renovated the building handed over the key to the governmental department of Nature and Environment last Friday.**

This monumental building was constructed in the fif-

ties, designed by architect Jan Nagel in de so-called 'Nieuw Bouwen' style. The building used to be a fabric shop and they also sold fashion accessories. In the beginning of the nineties the government bought the building as an office for the customs. But for the last years the building had no function anymore and was abandoned. SMFA bought the building and started to restore it. The result is to be

admired in San Nicolas. The Uncle Louis Store uses recycled water, has a green wall and energy is delivered by solar panels.

SMFA is engaged in the financing of restoration and maintenance, management and operation of protected monuments and is the financial institution in the field of heritage conservation. There are three organizations in Aruba that



deal with everything that involves restoration, protection, maintenance and awareness of Aruban monuments: Monuments Council, Monuments Office and Stichting Monumentenfonds Aruba or SMFA. The latter achieves its goal by:

- Buying or acquiring, restoring, renting and maintaining monuments
- Encouraging awareness of monuments through photo contests, media, exhibitions, education, etc.
- Giving advice to monuments owners

For more information about SMFA or the Uncle Louis Store you may contact telephone number +297 582 4014 or visit Facebook Stichting Monumenten Fonds Aruba. □



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## Carnival glammed up for its 66th edition

ORANJESTAD — While the official opening of the carnival season took off with the Torch Parade at January 5, the island caught the carnival fever and since then entered a series of carnival events that come to its end today. Past weekend were the Grand Parades at San Nicolas and Oranjestad, today is the Old Mask parade and Burning of Momo.

The island is known for its white-sanded beaches and perfect climate, but there is one time in the year that Aruba draws thousands of visitors: carnival. If you have never been here before, come in carnival season as your experience will be amazing. Sensational musical

events, queen elections and different parades are all part of this spectacular phenomenon. Carnival is part of Aruba's history and cultural heritage, actually it is the largest cultural festival on the island. For the islanders it is a way to express their creativity and break away from the daily buzz of life. Dancing to the rhythm of local music while enjoying the ambiance of the public are some of the ingredients of this festival. Oranjestad and San Nicolas are the stages for this display of unique designed costumes, amazing ambience and upbeat, local music.

### History

In the 1920's the first carnival events were organized

by social clubs that started private costume and masquerade parties. This year we celebrated Aruba's 66th carnival, which means that the first grand parade took place in 1955. Since then Aruba's carnival has grown big and is now able to stand shoulder to shoulder with the most renowned Carnival celebrations around the world. □



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**Wednesday at 8:00pm**  
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**Friday at 8:00pm**  
Caribbean Night

**Saturday at 8:00pm**  
Violin Night

**Sunday at 8:00pm**  
Aruba Has Talent

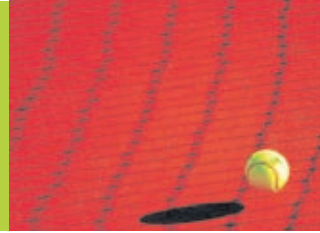
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# SPORTS



Patrick Reed of the United States poses with the trophy after winning the WGC-Mexico Championship golf tournament, at the Chapultepec Golf Club in Mexico City, Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020.

Associated Press

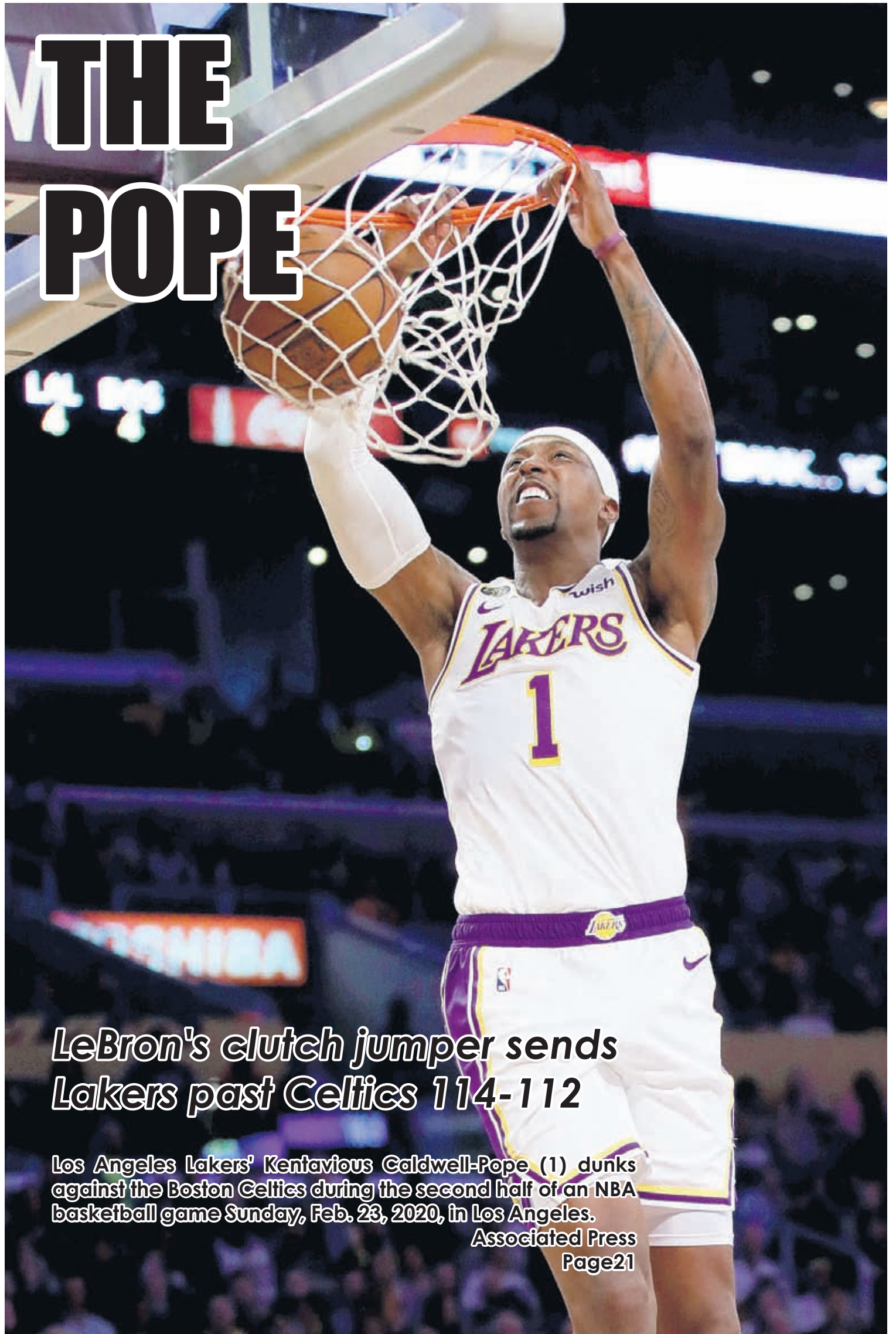
## Patrick Reed plays better as the accusations get louder

By DOUG FERGUSON  
AP Golf Writer

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — The bookies had Patrick Reed at 40-1 odds going into the Mexico Championship, which should have come down before he even hit a shot. More accusations of cheating, this time from Brooks Koepka during a town hall show on Sirius XM. And then former CBS analyst Peter Kostis weighed in during a "No Laying Up" podcast in which he said he saw Reed improve his lie four times. The noise got louder. And that's when Reed always seems to get better. His one-shot victory in Mexico City might not quiet any critics. It left no doubt, however, that the 29-year-old Reed might be as resilient as anyone in golf. He says he doesn't listen, and that his team — wife Justine, her mother, attorneys — fill him in.

Continued on Page 20

# THE POPE



## LeBron's clutch jumper sends Lakers past Celtics 114-112

Los Angeles Lakers' Kentavious Caldwell-Pope (1) dunks against the Boston Celtics during the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press  
Page 21



## Caps end slide, beat Penguins to move back into 1st place

By The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — T.J. Oshie scored the go-ahead goal midway through the third period, Braden Holtby made 33 saves and the Washington Capitals beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 5-3 on Sunday to snap their losing streak at four and leapfrog their archrivals into first place.

The Capitals endured a back-and-forth, chippy game to win for just the second time in their past eight games.

Despite being outshot 36-23, Washington put together responses to some potential momentum-crushing Penguins goals. Pittsburgh's Patric Hornqvist and Sidney Crosby scored 26 seconds apart late in the second and Evgeni Malkin had a highlight-reel goal in the third that tied it.

Tom Wilson scored 76 seconds into the third to make it 2-2, two-time Penguins Stanley Cup champion Carl Hagelin put the Capitals up and Oshie shoveled the puck in on a scramble in front with 9:20 left. Pittsburgh's Matt Murray allowed four goals on 22 shots. Jakub Vrana also scored for Washington.

### **GOLDEN KNIGHTS 6, DUCKS 5, OT**

**ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)** — William Karlsson got his third career hat trick, Shea Theodore scored in overtime and Vegas extended its winning streak to a season-high six games.



Washington Capitals goaltender Braden Holtby (70) and Pittsburgh Penguins center Evgeni Malkin (71) battle for the puck during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020, in Washington. Also seen is Capitals defenseman Dmitry Orlov (9).

Associated Press

Theodore's winner 3:50 into OT came after the Golden Knights squandered a two-goal lead late in the third period. Mark Stone picked up his fourth assist on Theodore's goal.

Vegas' 5-3 lead appeared safe until Adam Henrique forced overtime with goals 1:42 apart. Both came when the Ducks brought on the extra attacker.

Nick Ritchie also had two goals for the Ducks, who have dropped their last two.

### **OILERS 4, KINGS 2**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Connor McDavid had a goal and two assists in his return after missing six games be-

cause of a quad injury and Edmonton beat Los Angeles.

Leon Draisaitl scored on the power play, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins had a goal and Edmonton moved ahead of idle Vancouver into second place in the Pacific Division. Mike Smith made 21 saves.

The Oilers are 9-4-2 in their past 15 games.

Anze Kopitar had a power-play goal, Dustin Brown also scored and Calvin Petersen made 27 saves for the Kings, who have lost three of four.

### **BLUES 4, WILD 1**

**ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)** — Oskar Sundqvist had a goal

and an assist, Jordan Binnington made 32 saves and St. Louis beat Minnesota.

Jordan Kyrou, Brayden Schenn and Ivan Barbashev also scored for the Blues, who have won four straight and retained their spot atop the Western Conference standings.

Marcus Foligno scored and Devan Dubnyk stopped 22 shots for Minnesota, which ended a two-game winning streak. The Wild are three points out of the final playoff spot in the West going into Monday's trade deadline.

St. Louis has given up just two goals over the last four games and shut down Min-

nesota on four power-play chances.

### **SABRES 2, JETS 1**

**BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)** — Kyle Okposo enjoyed his first two-goal game in 23 months, and Buffalo continued its playoff push with a victory over Winnipeg.

Okposo scored the go-ahead goal 7:37 into the third period and the Sabres won their fifth in six games. Rookie Jonas Johansson stopped 25 shots to earn his first victory in three NHL starts. The Sabres' recent surge has moved them into a tie for fifth with Montreal in the Atlantic Division standings with 66 points each, and six back of third-place Toronto.

Captain Blake Wheeler scored for Winnipeg. Connor Hellebuyck finished with 23 saves to drop to 5-4-1 in his past 10 games.

### **STARS 2, BLACKHAWKS 1**

**DALLAS (AP)** — Tyler Seguin scored the tiebreaking goal in the second period and Dallas beat Chicago. The Stars' Joe Pavelski opened the scoring in the first period.

Blackhawks rookie Dominik Kubalik tied the game in the second period on the power play.

Seguin's goal came at 16:29 of the second. He outmaneuvered Chicago goalie Corey Crawford, whose 31 saves included stopping a second-period penalty shot by Mattias Janmark.

Dallas goalie Anton Khudobin also stopped 31 shots. □

## Capitals acquire Kovalchuk from Canadiens for 3rd-rounder

By STEPHEN WHYNO

AP Hockey Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Ovi and Kovy show is coming to the NHL. The Washington Capitals on Sunday acquired winger Ilya Kovalchuk from the Montreal Canadiens for a 2020 third-round pick and will be able to add him to one of the most explosive offenses in hockey. Washington made the move to get another top-nine forward hours after its second victory in eight games. Montreal will

retain 50% of Kovalchuk's \$700,000 salary and cap hit. The 36-year-old Kovalchuk becomes the fourth prominent Russian player on the Capitals, joining forwards Alex Ovechkin and Evgeny Kuznetsov and defenseman Dmitry Orlov. He has six goals and seven assists for 13 points in 22 games since joining the Canadiens.

"Ilya is a talented offensive player who we feel will provide us with additional depth and flexibility

up front," Capitals general manager Brian MacLellan said. "He is a skilled forward who can make plays and contribute to our offensive game." Kovalchuk was named MVP of the 2018 Olympics when a team of Russian players, competing as neutral athletes, won the gold medal. He signed with the Los Angeles Kings that summer and had his contract terminated after putting up 43 points in 81 games.

Ovechkin and Kovalchuk



Detroit Red Wings goaltender Jonathan Bernier (45) deflects a shot by Montreal Canadiens left wing Ilya Kovalchuk (17) during the third period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020, in Detroit.

Associated Press

were teammates for Russia at the 2006, 2010 and 2014 Olympics. In 919 regular-season NHL games, Kovalchuk has 442 goals and 430 assists for 872 points.

He's expected to be in the Washington area for the Capitals' morning skate Tuesday and play that night against the Winnipeg Jets. □



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## Patrick Reed

Continued from Page 18

Reed slips on ear pods when he arrives on the putting green and uses whatever natural powers he has to block everything out while inside the ropes.

"It didn't bother me at all," Reed said. "I'm on the golf course. I'm focusing on what I need to do. My team knows that when I'm playing in tournaments, I'm kind of in my zone doing my thing. I'd have to talk to my team later on to see how much it bothered them or not. Because when it's tournament week, it's me going out there, playing golf."

He was part of a massive traffic jam, even by Mexico City standards, at Chapultepec Golf Club. Five players had at least a share of the lead at one point. Four were tied headed for the back nine.

Bryson DeChambeau hit the accelerator as just about everyone else — Justin Thomas, Rory McIl-

roy, Jon Rahm and Erik van Rooyen — hit the brakes. Reed stayed in the game with a pair of par putts and a birdie on No. 12, his first since the opening hole. Still two shots behind with four holes to play, he picked up a birdie on the par-5 15th. Blocked by the edges of trees left of the 16th fairway, he hooked a gap wedge that rode the ridge of the 16th green and fed down the slope to 3 feet. That gave him the lead when DeChambeau bogeyed the par-3 17th, and Reed followed behind him with an 18-foot birdie putt — his 45th one-putt of the week — that all but sealed it. He closed with a 4-under 67 for a one-shot victory, his eighth on the PGA Tour and second World Golf Championship. No one should have been surprised, least of all DeChambeau. He has taken his brunt of criticism for his pace of play, feeling as though he has become a

target. DeChambeau was on the putting green in case of a playoff, and when Reed won, he walked over the bridge toward the 18th green to congratulate him. Kindred spirits, those two, which is not to suggest they are popular.

"There's been a lot of stuff said in past years, I guess you could say, with him, and even with me. I feel like unfortunately sometimes we get quite a bad rap," DeChambeau said. "He's a great player, and he'll be a great player for a long time, and I have a lot of respect for his game."

What dogs Reed was a moment in the third round at the Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas, when his ball was in an awful lie in the waste area on the 11th hole. Video clearly showed him twice swiping away sand behind his ball. In the scoring room afterward, Reed accepted the two-shot penalty, all while saying a different camera



**Patrick Reed of the United States gives the thumbs up after winning the WGC-Mexico Championship golf tournament, at the Chapultepec Golf Club in Mexico City, Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020.**

Associated Press

angle would have shown his club wasn't as close to the ball as it looked and he didn't know his club touched the sand. Twice. It was a bad look, but it didn't bother Reed. He shot 66 the next day and finished third.

Cameron Smith spoke out against him ahead of the Presidents Cup, where Reed was heckled so badly that his caddie, brother-in-law Kessler Karain, had an

altercation with a fan and was suspended from caddying in the final session.

The next day, Reed won his first point of the week, handily beating C.T. Pan in 16 holes.

In his next PGA Tour start, Reed was in a three-man playoff at Kapalua. On his final putt in the playoff, which Thomas won, a fan cried out, "CHEATER!" as the ball was on its way. Reed says he never heard him. □



# LeBron James lifts Lakers past Celtics, 114-112

By The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — LeBron James scored 29 points and put the Lakers ahead on a fallaway jumper with 30 seconds to play, and Los Angeles split its season series with the Boston Celtics with a 114-112 victory Sunday.

James missed a tying free throw moments before he coolly nailed the shot that put the Lakers ahead to stay in a frenetic fourth quarter to cap the latest chapter of this famed NBA rivalry.

Anthony Davis had 32 points and 13 rebounds in the fifth straight victory overall for the Lakers, who took a 32-point blowout loss in Boston last month.

Davis hit two free throws with 12.3 seconds left and added one more with 6.7 seconds to play, before Jayson Tatum was called for charging in the final second as he attempted to create one last basket.

Tatum matched his career high with 41 points for the Celtics. They had won 12 of 14, starting with that dominant win over the Lakers in January.

## RAPTORS 127, PACERS 81

**TORONTO (AP)** — Kyle Lowry had 16 points and 11 assists and Toronto routed Indiana in the most-lopsided victory in team history to win for the 17th time in 18 games and extend its home winning streak to nine.

Pascal Siakam added 21 points and Serge Ibaka had 15 points and a season-high 15 rebounds. Toronto's largest lead was 49 points. Domantas Sabonis had 14 points and 11 rebounds for Indiana. Aaron Holiday also scored 14 points.

## TRAIL BLAZERS 107, PISTONS 104

**PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)** — CJ McCollum had 41 points, a career-high 12 assists and nine rebounds, Carmelo Anthony scored a season-high 32 points and Portland rallied to beat Detroit.

It was the first time Anthony scored over 30 points since Feb. 25, 2017, when he was with the New York Knicks. He made a jumper with Portland protecting a two-



Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (23) drives to the basket against the Boston Celtics during the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

point lead with 21 seconds left.

Reserve big man Christian Wood had 26 points and nine rebounds for Detroit.

## BULLS 126, WIZARDS 117

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Coby White scored 33 points to join Michael Jordan as the only Bulls rookies with consecutive 30-point games, and Chicago overcame Bradley Beal's career-high 53 points to snap an eight-game losing streak.

Zach LaVine added 32 points and broke the franchise record for 3-pointers in a season. Thaddeus Young scored 25 points, going 5 of 7 from beyond the arc. Beal surpassed his previous best of 51 points at

Portland on Dec. 5, 2017.

## NUGGETS 128, TIMBERWOLVES 116

**DENVER (AP)** — Paul Millsap scored a season-high 25 points on 9-of-11 shooting and Denver Nuggets bounced back from its first loss in the Northwest Division to beat Minnesota. Millsap made his first six shots of the game before missing with 54 seconds left in the first half.

Nikola Jokic was nearly as sharp, making all six of his shots in the first half and going 11 of 14 from the field. He finished with 24 points and Jamal Murray had 19. Denver shot 58.9% after hitting 68.2% in the first half.

Kelan Martin had 19 of his

career-high 21 points in the first half for Minnesota.

## THUNDER 131, SPURS 103

**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)** — Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 22 points and 13 rebounds, Steven Adams added 21 points and 14 rebounds and Oklahoma City rolled past San Antonio Spurs 131-103 on Sunday night.

Luguentz Dort, a rookie who is on a two-way contract, scored 15 points on 6-for-6 shooting, and Chris Paul added 12 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds to help the Thunder win for the 12th time in 15 games. Eight Oklahoma City players scored in double figures — a first for the team

since moving from Seattle in 2008.

Rudy Gay scored 14 points for the Spurs.

## PELICANS 115, WARRIORS 101

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Zion Williamson had 28 points and seven rebounds, Jrue Holiday scored 11 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter and New Orleans pulled away to beat Golden State.

Nicolo Melli matched his career high with 20 points and six 3-pointers, and Brandon Ingram had 17 points and five assists to help the Pelicans win for the fifth time in six games. Damion Lee scored 22 points for Golden State. □



## Wilder says pre-fight costume wore him down

By **TIM DAHLBERG**

**AP Boxing Writer**

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — Deontay Wilder says an elaborate outfit he wore on his ring walk wore him down so much that he didn't have the legs to withstand Tyson Fury in their heavyweight title fight Saturday night.

Wilder also said he would execute a clause in his contract for a third fight with Fury, hopefully sometime this summer.

"This summer with no fights in between," Wilder told The Associated Press in a phone interview Monday. "I'm a warrior and I'm ready to go again, but we're going to change a lot of things in camp."

Wilder said the outfit — which he said was a tribute to Black History Month — weighed him down and that his legs weren't right by the time the fight started. Wilder said the entire getup, including a mask, weighed some 40 pounds, and he knew by the end of the second round that his legs were gone.

Wilder also said his assistant trainer, Mark Breland, was acting against previously agreed-upon instructions



**Deontay Wilder arrives in the ring for a WBC heavyweight championship boxing match against Tyson Fury, of England, Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020, in Las Vegas.**

**Associated Press**

when he threw in the towel to end the fight at 1:39 of the seventh round and would not likely be in the

corner in a third fight.

"We had many discussions for years about this situation and for him to still do

it after Jay (Deas, Wilder's main trainer) told him not to do it really hurt me.

And then I heard he was influenced by another fighter in the audience and it makes a lot of conspiracy theories in your head why he did it. It didn't make sense."

The former heavyweight champion was knocked down twice by Fury in the fight before his corner threw in the towel in the seventh round. It was his first loss in 44 fights and came after 10 successful title defenses.

Wilder, who has always worn elaborate outfits into the ring, said he tried on the one he used in the fight the night before in his hotel room to make sure he could get it on and off. He said it was weighed down by sequins and ornamentation and also included batteries for his mask to light up when he got in the ring.

"Going up the stairs (into the ring) I knew immediately it was a different change in my body condition," he said. "After the second round I had no legs, period."

Wilder said he is taking a previously scheduled trip to

Africa, but plans to resume training once he gets back. He has 30 days to officially accept the third fight, which would be a 60-40 purse split in Fury's favor.

Fury and Wilder combined to sell the biggest live gate (\$16.9 million) in Nevada heavyweight fight history and, though the results have not been announced, the fight was expected to have performed well on pay-per-view. Both fighters were expected to make \$30 million or more when the receipts are all added up.

Wilder said he has gotten an outpouring of love from people in the wake of his loss, the first in his 12-year professional career.

He said the worst thing about the fight was that he wasn't allowed to keep fighting past the seventh round, when he was taking a lot of punches to the head without throwing many back.

"I'm going out on my shield. I'm a warrior," Wilder said.

"If I say I'm willing to kill a man in the ring then I'm willing to abide by that same principle as a warrior to die in the ring." □

## MLB tells court attempts at cheating are a part of sports

By **RONALD BLUM**

**AP Baseball Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Attempts at cheating are a part of sports, Major League Baseball said in urging a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit by fantasy contestants.

Five men sued MLB, MLB Advanced Media, the Houston Astros and the Boston Red Sox in federal court in Manhattan, claiming fraud, violation of consumer-protection laws, negligence, unjust enrichment and deceptive trade practices by teams that violated MLB's rules against the use of electronics to steal catchers' signs. The five said they participated in DraftKings fantasy baseball contests.

"Rules violations — large and small, intentional and unintentional, technical and game-changing —



**A fan holds a sign during a spring training baseball game between the Houston Astros and the Washington Nationals Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020, in West Palm Beach, Fla.**

**Associated Press**

are a never-ending source of sports television, talk radio, web and elevator commentary by sports pundits and fans alike," MLB said Friday in papers submitted to U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff. "And fans' general awareness of the potential for infrac-

tions is underscored in this case by the fact that clubs were publicly disciplined for electronic sign-stealing violations during the 2017 regular season."

MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred ruled last month the Astros violated sign-stealing rules during home

games en route to their World Series title in 2017 and again in 2018. He suspended manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow for one season each, and both were fired by the team. Manfred fined the Astros \$5 million, the maximum under MLB rules and stripped the team of its next two first- and second-round draft picks.

He also is investigating allegations against the Red Sox.

In its papers, MLB cited a 2010 opinion by Judge Robert Cowen for a 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel that upheld the dismissal of a suit by a New York Jets season ticket-holder against the NFL, New England coach Bill Belichick and the Patriots over the Spygate scandal. "It appears uncontested

that players often commit intentional rule infractions in order to obtain an advantage over the course of the game," Cowen wrote.

MLB maintained "plaintiffs got exactly what they bargained for: contests determined by baseball players' actual performance on the field, whatever the contributing factors, predictable or unpredictable, may have been" and added "not one plaintiff claims to have lost any fantasy baseball contest as a result of sign-stealing or otherwise."

Houston submitted papers to dismiss, citing the Astros' better performance on the road in 2017:

The Astros hit .279 at home with 395 runs and 115 homers at home vs. road stats of .284, 501 runs and 123 homers. □



# Joey Logano overcomes missed pit call to win at Las Vegas

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — The adjustments to a major off-season overhaul at Team Penske continued Sunday at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, where miscommunication between Joey Logano and his new crew chief led to a botched final pit stop.

Logano still wound up in victory lane for the second year in a row, winning a two-lap sprint to the finish that ended under caution. A caution with six laps remaining forced teams to make strategic decisions and crew chief Paul Wolfe told Logano to come to pit road for new tires. Logano didn't hear Wolfe and remained on track, a move that cycled him into the lead but put him in position to hold off a slew of contenders on fresh tires.

Logano knew it was critical to get his Ford separated from the pack quickly on the restart to have any shot at the win.

"Clean air was going to be key with old tires," he said. "If I got swallowed up by a couple cars, I was just going to fall backwards really quick."

Logano got a push from Ricky Stenhouse Jr. on the restart with two laps remaining, then threw a block on William Byron to maintain his position out front that Logano called "the winning move."

"I was able to get down in front of him and then be able to separate myself a little bit from the field," he said.

Logano, the 2018 champion, just missed advancing to the championship race last season. At the start of this year, owner Roger Penske announced he'd swapped the crews of Logano, Ryan Blaney and Brad Keselowski, with Logano getting Wolfe, the crew chief who led Keselowski to a Cup title.

They've worked together at the track the last three weeks and Logano praised the new pairing.

"He's done such a great

job, and it's been fun getting to know each other, and the whole team," Logano said. "The pit crew was amazing today. I think we gained a spot every time at least. Proud of the effort that everyone has put in over the offseason." Logano had taken the white flag when a crash occurred deep in traffic to bring out the caution, freeze the field and secure the victory for the No. 22 Ford.

The 24th victory of Logano's career broke a tie with Ricky Rudd for 35th on NASCAR's all-time win list.

Matt DiBenedetto in a Ford for the Wood Brothers — a Penske partner — for his second race was 0.491 seconds behind to tie his career-best finish.

"This is all just too surreal," he said. "Tough to be that close, but, hey, this is only the second race of the season. So it was the strength of this team. It's so cool to have the backing of all the people that allow me to drive this thing."

Stenhouse, pole-sitter for the Daytona 500 a week ago, was third in a Chevrolet in his second race for new team JTG-Daugherty Racing.

"So far so good," Stenhouse said. "Two weeks, we've been fast this week, we weren't bad this week, and we know what we need to work on."

Austin Dillon was fourth for Richard Childress Racing and followed by Jimmie Johnson, Bubba Wallace, Logano teammate Keselowski and Kevin Harvick. Kyle Larson and Ty Dillon rounded out the top 10. Daytona 500 winner Denny Hamlin was the highest-finishing Toyota driver in 17th as the brand and Joe Gibbs Racing struggled the entire 400 miles.

Ross Chastain drove the No. 6 Ford for Roush Fenway Racing as the replacement driver for Ryan Newman, who suffered a head injury in a crash on the final lap of Monday night's Daytona 500. It ended a streak of 649 consec-

utive starts dating to 2002 for Newman, who has no timetable for a return but his team said Sunday that he intends to get back in his car. Chastain finished 29th, in part because of a late spin, but ran inside the top-10 earlier in the race. Roush Fenway has not indicated who will drive the car next week.

Chastain was bitterly disappointed as he headed to his Xfinity Series car for the resumption of Saturday's race, which was rained out after 50 laps and rescheduled for after the main event. "I was just overdriving there at the end for sure. It just got away from me there and got loose," Chastain said. "The car deserved a lot better finish. I just didn't have great restarts. These guys kind of ate me alive on the restarts and I'd lose three or four spots every time, and picked the wrong lines through one and two, and then three and four again I just kept making silly mistakes that I should learn from after I make the mistake once. I just have to be better."

## BAD BREAK

Chase Elliott appeared to be the driver to beat through the first two stages, both wins for Elliott in his Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet.

But his shot to win the race ended after a tire issue following a pit stop from the lead caused Elliott to hit



Joey Logano celebrates after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020.

Associated Press

the wall. He had led five different times for 70 laps, with the two stage victories, before heading to pit road for repairs.

Elliott finished 26th.

## BLANEY BOUNCES BACK

An emotional week for Ryan Blaney ended with an 11th place finish at Las Vegas and Blaney moving toward closure after Ryan Newman's crash on the final lap of Monday night's Daytona 500.

It was contact from Blaney that triggered Newman's crash, and Blaney said Sunday morning before the race he struggled in the first few days over his role in the accident.

"I talked to his dad on Tuesday and said when he's feeling better, I'd like to talk to Ryan," Blaney told The Associated Press. "Ryan called me Wednesday and just talking to him, hearing him, really made things easier." □

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# Reliability of pricey new voting machines questioned

By **FRANK BAJAK**  
AP Technology Writer

Nearly 1 in 5 U.S. voters will cast ballots this year on devices that look and feel like the discredited paperless voting machines they once used, yet leave a paper record of the vote. But computer security experts are warning that these so-called ballot-marking devices still pose too much of a risk.

Ballot-marking machines were initially developed not as primary vote-casting tools but as "accessible" alternatives for the disabled. They print out paper records that are scanned by optical readers that tabulate the vote.

They cost at least twice as much as hand-marked paper ballots, which computer scientists prefer because paper can't be hacked. That's an important consideration as U.S. intelligence officials warn that malicious meddling in this year's presidential contest could be worse than in 2016.

The machines have been vigorously promoted by the trio of privately held voting equipment vendors that control 88 percent of the U.S. market and are nearly unregulated at the federal level. They are expected to be used by some 40 million eligible voters more than in the 2018 midterm elections. Key counties in the crucial swing states of Pennsylvania, Ohio and North Carolina, much of Texas, California's Los Angeles County and all of Georgia and Del-



In this Aug. 16, 2019, file photo, a digital voting machine sits on a table in Raleigh, N.C.

Associated Press

aware have bought ballot-marking machines. So has South Carolina, which will use them in Saturday's primaries.

Some of the most popular such devices, from Election Systems & Software and Dominion Voting Systems, register votes in bar codes that the human eye can't decipher. That means skilled hackers could alter outcomes without detection, gaming bar codes while keeping voters' intended choices on the human-readable portion of the ballot printout, computer scientists have found. ES&S claims such tampering is "a practical impossibility."

Spokeswoman Katina Granger said the company's ballot-marking machines' accuracy and security "have been proven through thousands of hours of testing and tens of thousands of successful elections." Dominion declined comment for this story.

Even on machines that don't use bar codes, voters may not notice if a hack or programming error mangles their choices. A University of Michigan study determined that only 7 percent of participants in a mock election notified poll workers when the names on their printed receipts didn't match the candidates they voted for.

"There are a huge number of reasons to reject today's ballot-marking devices — except for limited use as assistive devices for those unable to mark a paper ballot themselves," says Doug Jones, a University of Iowa election security expert.

Critics say currently available ballot-marking devices undermine the very idea of retaining a paper record. It's an idea supported by a 2018 National Academies of Sciences report that favors hand-marked ballots tallied by optical scanners, which 70 percent of U.S. voters used in 2016 and 2018 and will again rely on

in November. It is a stance also shared by Colorado, a national leader in election security. The state is banning bar codes from ballot-marking voting machines beginning in 2021.

But some election officials see ballot-marking devices as improvements over paperless touchscreens, which were used by 27 percent of voters in 2018. They like them because the touchscreens are familiar to voters, looking and feeling like what they've been using for nearly two decades, and they can use one voting method for everyone.

Michael Anderson, elections director for Pennsylvania's Lebanon County, said "voters want it." The county offers all voters both machine- and hand-marked ballots.

"When we give them a paper ballot, the very first thing they say to us is, 'We're going back in time,'" he said. Northampton County, on Pennsylvania's eastern edge, became ground zero last November in the debate over ballot-marking devices when its newly purchased ES&S ExpressVote XLs failed in two different ways.

First, a ballot programming error prevented votes cast for one of three candidates

in a judge's race from registering in the bar codes used to count the vote. Only absentee ballot votes registered electronically for the candidate. A manual recount of the paper voting records settled the election. The other problem: miscalibrated touchscreens on about a third of the county's 320 machines. One poll judge called the touchscreens "garbage," and some voters who registered complaints in emails obtained by The Associated Press in a public records request said their votes were assigned to the wrong candidates — an error known as "vote-flipping." Others worried about future malfunctions triggering long lines.

According to state certification documents, voters require triple the amount of time on average to navigate ES&S ballot-marking machines when compared with filling out hand-marked ballots and running them through optical scanners. ES&S blamed the Northampton County debacle on human error. Proper pre-election logic and accuracy testing would have easily caught both problems, said Daniel Lopresti, a Lehigh University computer scientist on the county election commission.

"What we worry is, what happens the next time if there's a programming bug — or a hack or whatever — and it's done in a way that's not obvious?"

At last year's DefCon hacker convention in Las Vegas, it took tinkerers less than eight hours to hack two older ballot-marking devices that organizers obtained. But New York State election commission co-chair, Douglas Kellner, an early critic of paperless electronic voting machines, said he's confident in a ballot-marking device, the ImageCast Evolution by Dominion, certified for use in his state.

He said safeguards built into the machines and security protocols make a hack of the Image Evolution "extraordinarily unlikely." □

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## Virus outbreak chills markets, outlook for global economy

By **DAVID McHUGH**

AP Business Writer

**FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)**

— The widening coronavirus outbreak threatens to seriously disrupt the global economy, just as it was steadying itself against headwinds from the U.S.-China trade dispute.

Amid concerns that global output could decline for the first time since the global financial crisis a little more than a decade ago, stock markets sank Monday. In one sign of how sentiment has been negatively hit, gold spiked 1.8% to \$1,688 an ounce, its highest level in seven years, as traders sought out financial assets some consider safer in times of stress.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones was down more than 900 points during early afternoon Monday trading, while in Europe, the pan-European Stoxx 600 slid 3.6% after an eruption of cases in Italy. Cases were also reported in new countries in the Middle East.

"Compounded with the already dramatic interruptions to global supply chains in China, traders fear that a rapid spread of the disease to other major economies could be enough to temporarily tip global economic growth into contraction in the first half of the year," said Matt Weller, global head of market research at GAIN Capital.

China, the epicenter of the outbreak, faces the



Women wearing sanitary masks walk in downtown Milan, Italy, Monday, Feb. 24, 2020.

Associated Press

most acute near-term difficulties as factories lie idle and people remain homebound. But the ripple effects are being felt all around the world, as China is both a major importer of goods as well as a source of parts through intricate supply chains. Growth estimates for China are already being cut.

Concerns are growing in the 19-country eurozone, whose three biggest economies — Germany, France and Italy — are stalling. Concerns over the knock-on effects on Germany, Europe's export powerhouse, are particularly acute. Germany's main DAX stock market closed a whopping 4% lower Monday.

"Given the latest developments, one has inevitably to talk about downside risks for German exporters," said Andreas Rees, chief German economist at UniCredit. Rees cited figures showing car sales in China fell 92% in the first two weeks of February, and pointed out that of the 21 million cars sold in China last year, about 1 in 5 was made either in Germany or through German investment in China. Most Chinese auto showrooms are closed.

Meanwhile Italy's FTSE MIB slumped 5.4% as Italian civil protection officials said at least 222 people had tested positive for the virus in the country and that six people

had died. Europeans had been hoping for a modest upturn this year after major economies staggered through a rough patch at the end of the year. Germany showed zero growth in the fourth quarter, while the No. 2 and No. 3 economies, France and Italy, shrank slightly. Two straight quarters of falling growth is one definition of a recession. The global economy was just stabilizing after wobbles caused by the trade war between the U.S. and China and fears of a disorderly British exit from the European Union. The coronavirus hit just as a U.S.-China preliminary deal and a Brexit withdrawal divorce agreement had

boosted hopes for a modest upswing, particularly in Europe. Now the world economy could see its first quarterly fall in seasonally adjusted output since the global financial crisis of more than a decade ago, says Ben May, director of global macro research at Oxford Economics.

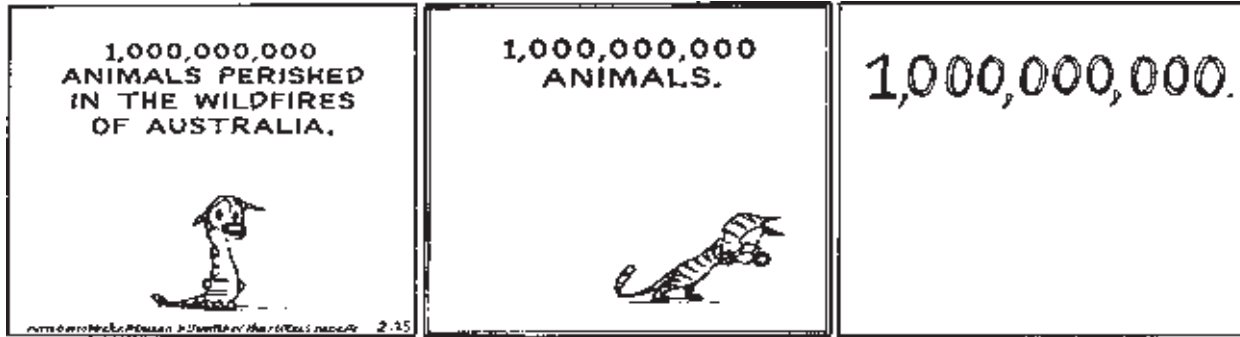
Frequent business and tourism destinations for people from China are already being hit hard, confirming that this will be a key way that the pain will spread to other Asian economies, with Singapore and Hong Kong feeling the effects.

Comparisons to the 2003 SARS epidemic, another deadly outbreak that originated in China, aren't reassuring because China's share of the global economy is much bigger than it was back then, and supply chains moving raw materials, parts and products snake through the global economy more than ever. Stock markets may have been slow to appreciate the risk posed by the outbreak because they hoped central banks could step in with more stimulus.

Individual companies have already reported trouble, most notably Apple, which said it will miss its sales target. But it could take until April or May before hard data on production and sales gives a clear picture of the impact on a regional or global level, Oxford Economics' May said. □



**Mutts**



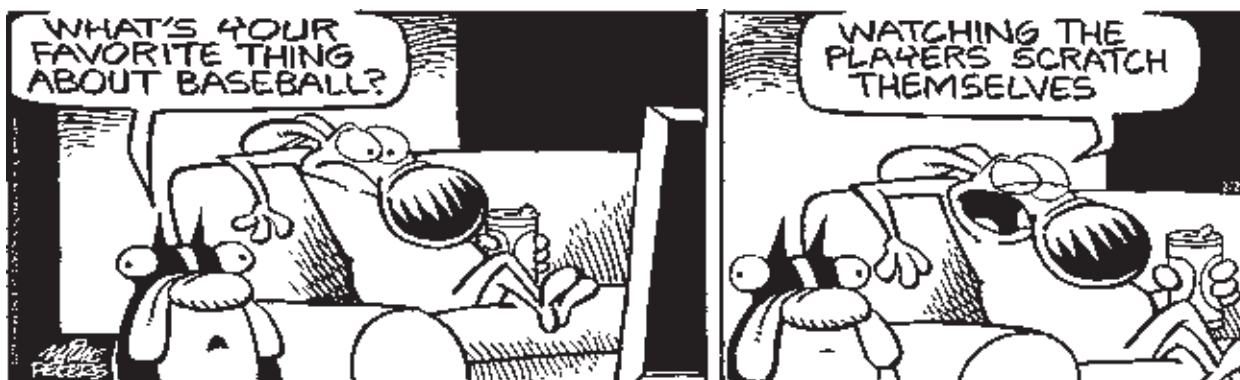
**6 Chix**



**Blondie**



**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

	5		7				4	
6								8
1			9		5			6
		3	1		9	5		7
2		4	3		6	8		
4			5		7			2
7								1
	1				4		6	

Difficulty Level ★★

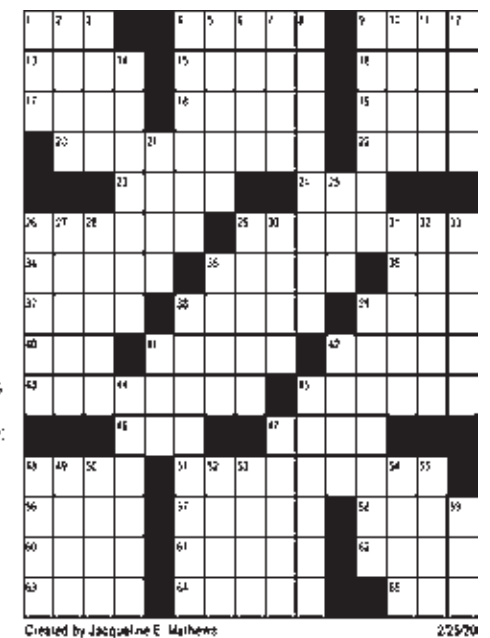
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

6	2	5	7	3	9	4	1	8
9	1	4	5	8	2	7	6	3
8	3	7	1	4	6	2	5	9
2	6	8	4	7	5	3	9	1
4	5	9	2	1	3	6	8	7
3	7	1	9	6	8	5	4	2
1	4	2	8	5	7	9	3	6
7	8	6	3	9	4	1	2	5
5	9	3	6	2	1	8	7	4

- ACROSS**
- Retriever or retriever
  - Ship does
  - On the page: in agreement
  - Grows older
  - As score as
  - Can't wait
  - Phooey!
  - Soup server's need
  - Piece of silverware
  - Wipe out
  - Logging tool
  - That lunch looks awful
  - For the course: norma
  - Umpire's call
  - Foretells
  - Wedding bird
  - Rain is hard
  - Traitor
  - Ladder step
  - Attempts
  - Unexceptional
  - TV's "Zero is Second"
  - Palm tree leaf
  - Zest
  - Most annoying
  - Was
  - personality
  - Org. for Hawks & Hornets
  - "and Circumstance"
  - To boot
  - Take the place of, bump
  - First word in a warning
  - Come together
  - Popular pers
  - Pink
  - Provokes
  - Lyme disease screamer
  - Unlucky crowds
  - Chin of terms
  - Quiet & self-conscious

- DOWN**
- Fairytale
  - Bogeyman
  - Equipment
  - With
  - Taken
  - surprised
  - pop; fizzy drink
  - Lean to one side
  - Pullman cars
  - African expedition
  - As dumb as ol rocks
  - Pans an mother
  - BPOE folks
  - Hanging around
  - Adress Party
  - Promos
  - Latover b
  - Cease-fire
  - and raves: makes a scene
  - To the relevant
  - Had remorse for
  - In a bad mood
  - 1 of the 5 senses
  - Got it
  - and sons
  - Cherish



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/25/20

**Monday's Puzzle Solved**

P	E	P	E	P	O	C	H	A	R	C	H
T	A	X	I	S	I	N	A	I	T	A	L
O	N	C	E	T	E	M	P	T	A	T	I
P	S	I	F	A	R	E	S	R	I	N	G
T	H	A	T	S	T	I	C				
P	L	E	A	S	E	F	U	S	E	S	
L	I	M	I	T	P	R	O	B	E	U	P
O	V	E	R	S	A	U	N	A	S	C	A
D	E	N	B	A	L	E	D				
S	T	A	R	V	E	R	E	A	L	M	S
G	E	E	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
A	G	R	E	E	T	H	A	I	S	P	A
S	L	A	N	D	E	R	O	U	S	S	T
A	U	N	T	D	A	N	C	E	H	U	N
N	E	T	S	S	P	E	E	D	E	S	T

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Studio wk 7/8  
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27/29 weeks remain

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Eagle 9 \$9,5K each  
with 27/19 weeks remain  
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1 BR WK #11  
Birdie 3 \$9 K  
26 weeks remain  
1 BR wk 12/13  
ground Floor  
With 33/34 weeks remain  
Birdie 10 \$9,5 K each

**Divi Village**  
Studio wk 6 \$ 7,5 K  
Building F  
21 weeks remain  
**Dutch Village**  
1 BR WK 7/8 \$9 K each  
15 weeks remain each  
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25 weeks remain

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16 weeks remain  
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12/24 weeks remain

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16 weeks remain

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3 rd floor building  
27 weeks remain

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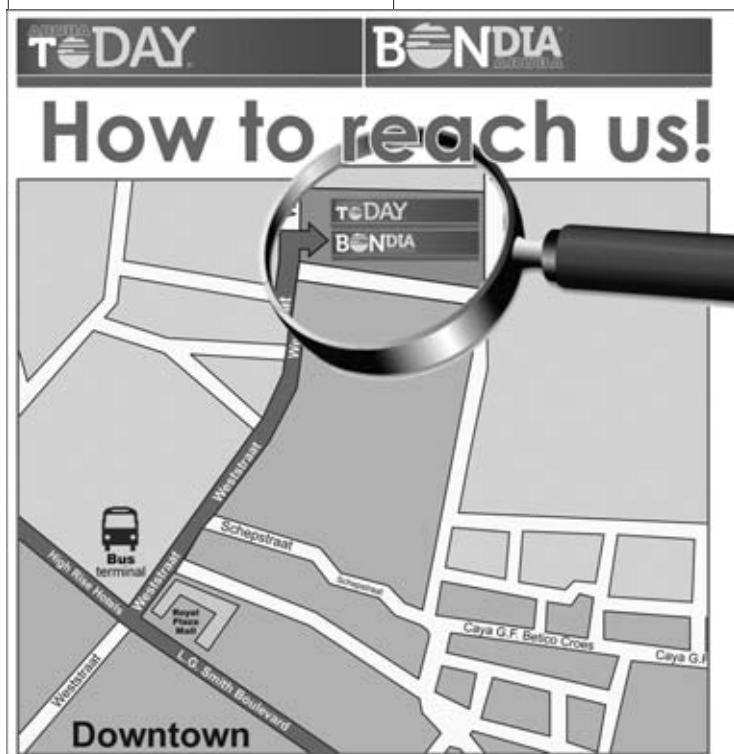
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# Scientists gather to study risk from microplastic pollution

By GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press

**PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)** — Tiny bits of broken-down plastic smaller than a fraction of a grain of rice are turning up everywhere in oceans, from the water to the guts of fish and the poop of sea otters and giant killer whales.

Yet little is known about the effects of these "microplastics" — on sea creatures or humans.

"It's such a huge endeavor to know how bad it is," said Shawn Larson, curator of conservation research at the Seattle Aquarium. "We're just starting to get a finger on the pulse."

This week, a group of five-dozen microplastics researchers from major universities, government agencies, tribes, aquariums, environmental groups and even water sanitation districts across the U.S. West is gathering in Bremerton, Washington, to tackle the issue. The goal is to create a mathematical risk assessment for microplastic pollution in the region similar to predictions used to game out responses to major natural disasters such as earthquakes.

The largest of these plastic bits are 5 millimeters long, roughly the size of a kernel of corn, and many are much smaller and invisible to the naked eye.

They enter the environment in many ways. Some slough off of car tires and wash into streams — and eventually the ocean — during rainstorms. Others detach from fleeces and spandex clothing in washing machines and are mixed in with the soiled water that drains from the machine. Some come from abandoned fishing gear, and still more are the result of the



This 2013 photo from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shows piece of microplastic foam debris found along the coast of Alaska, on a person's finger.

eventual breakdown of the millions of straws, cups, water bottles, plastic bags and other single-use plastics thrown out each day. Research into their potential impact on everything from tiny single-celled organisms to larger mammals like sea otters is just getting underway.

"This is an alarm bell that's going to ring loud and strong," said Stacey Harper, an associate professor at Oregon State University who helped organize the conference. "We're first going to prioritize who it is that we're concerned about protecting: what organisms, what endangered species, what regions. And that will help us hone in ... and determine the data we need to do a risk assessment."

A study published last year by Portland State University found an average of 11 micro-plastic pieces per oyster and nine per razor clam in the samples taken

from the Oregon coast. Nearly all were from microfibers from fleece or other synthetic clothing or from abandoned fishing gear, said Elise Granek, study co-author.

Scientists at the San Francisco Estuary Institute found significant amounts of microplastic washing into the San Francisco Bay from storm runoff over a three-year sampling period that ended last year. Researchers believe the black, rubbery bits no bigger than a grain of sand are likely from car tires, said Rebecca Sutton, senior scientist at the

institute. They will present their findings at the conference.

Those studying the phenomenon are worried about the health of creatures living in the ocean — but also, possibly, the health of humans.

Some of the concern stems from an unusual twist unique to plastic pollution. Because plastic is made from fossil fuels and contains hydrocarbons, it attracts and absorbs other pollutants in the water, such as PCBs and pesticides, said Andrew Mason, the Pacific Northwest re-

gional coordinator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's marine debris program.

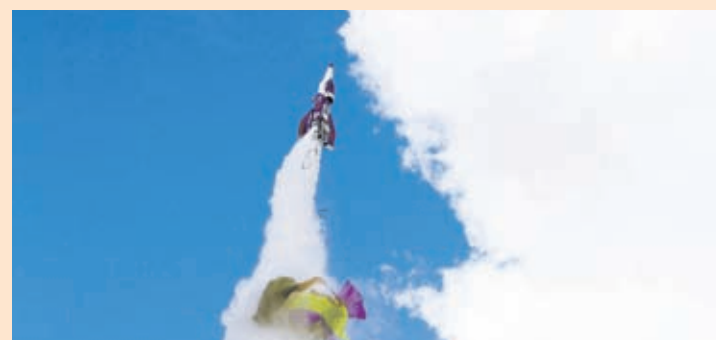
"There's a lot of research that still needs to be done, but these plastics have the ability to mine harmful chemicals that are in the environment. They can accumulate them," said Mason. "Everything, as it goes up toward the top, it just gets more and more and the umbrella gets wider. And who sits at the top of the food chain? We do. That's why these researchers are coming together, because this is a growing problem, and we need to understand those effects."

Researchers say bans on plastic bags, Styrofoam carry-out containers and single-use items like straws and plastic utensils will help when it comes to the tiniest plastic pollution. Some jurisdictions have also recently begun taking a closer look at the smaller plastic bits that have the scientific community so concerned. California lawmakers in 2018 passed legislation that will ultimately require the state to adopt a method for testing for microplastics in drinking water and to perform that testing for four years, with the results reported to the public. The first key deadline for the law — simply defining what qualifies as a micro-plastic — is July 1. □

## Skeptic of world being round dies in California rocket crash

**BARSTOW, Calif. (AP)** — A California man who said he wanted to fly to the edge of outer space to see if the world is round has died after his home-built rocket blasted off into the desert sky and plunged back to earth.

"Mad" Mike Hughes was killed on Saturday afternoon after his rocket crashed on private property near Barstow, California. The Science Channel said on Twitter it had been chronicling Hughes' journey and that "thoughts & prayers go out to his family & friends during this diffi-



In this Saturday afternoon, Feb. 22, 2020, photo "Mad" Mike Hughes rocket takes off, with what appears to be a parachute tearing off during its launch near Barstow, Calif.

Associated Press

cult time." "It was always his dream to do this launch," the Twitter message said. Hughes also was a limousine driver, who held the Guinness world record for

"longest limousine ramp jump," for jumping 103 feet (31 meters) in a Lincoln Town Car stretch limousine, at a speedway in 2002. □

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## Box office goes 'Sonic' again but hears 'Call of the Wild'

By **ANDREW DALTON AP**

**Entertainment Writer**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The hedgehog edged the sled dog by a nose at the box office.

"Sonic: The Hedgehog" zoomed to the top of the box office with a take of \$26.3 million in its second weekend while audiences ignored critics and heeded "The Call of the Wild" as the Harrison Ford CGI dog flick finished a close second with \$24.8 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. It was a strong weekend for both films, with each outperforming expectations and overcoming early doubts about design problems.

Paramount Pictures' Sega video game adaptation "Sonic the Hedgehog" was a laughingstock when its first trailer was released last year, but after a delay and a title-character makeover, the film has now spent two weeks atop the box office and brought in over \$200



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Sonic, voiced by Ben Schwartz, left, and James Marsden in a scene from "Sonic the Hedgehog."

Associated Press

million globally.

20th Century Studios' "The Call of the Wild" was also mocked by many on social media for its CGI dog — the first five film adaptations of Jack London's 1903 novel all used real ones — and reviews were decidedly mixed with a Rotten Tomatoes score of 62 percent, but moviegoers bought into the digital dog and his 77-year-old co-star, who would have won the week-

end were it not for a late surge from "Sonic."

"For 'Call of the Wild' heading into weekend the estimates were all over the place, as low as 10 million for the weekend, some saying it could do 15, maybe 20," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "So like 'Sonic' it over-performed."

In a very distant third with \$7 million was "Harley Quinn: Birds of Prey" in its

third week.

The weekend's other wide release, "Brahms: The Boy II" starring Katie Holmes, was fourth with just \$5.9 million. That was a disappointing opening at a time of year when horror films often do well. 2020 appears to be bucking that trend with family films thriving in the early weeks of the year.

"Sonic" and "Call of the Wild" represent two PG-rated movies where that void

in the marketplace for families is the key to their success in this part of the year, a time that's usually dominated by awards holdovers and R-rated films," Dergarabedian said.

And those family audiences may be why critics didn't matter for the top two films. "PG-rated films are more immune to reviews and are more about the audience. If a kid wants to go see a film, they're going to go see it" he said.

Best picture winner "Parasite" continued its post-Oscars surge in a week where its victory was mocked at a rally by President Donald Trump, bringing in \$3.2 million in North America, where it has earned nearly \$50 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. □

## Auschwitz Museum upset at scene in Amazon series 'Hunters'

By **MONIKA SCISLOWSKA**

**Associated Press**

**WARSAW, Poland (AP)** —

The museum of the Nazi German Auschwitz death camp is objecting to a scene in a new Amazon TV series that shows a murderous game of human chess being played there, insisting that no such thing took place at the camp.

The museum and memorial that guard the Auschwitz-Birkenau site in southern Poland, its historic facts and the memory of the victims tweeted about the scene in Amazon's series "Hunters." It said inventing fake scenes is "dangerous foolishness and caricature," encourages Holocaust deniers and is disrespectful of the camp's some 1.1 million victims, including women and children.

The series' creator, David Weil stressed in a statement it was not a documentary but a narrative with largely fictional characters. As a grandson of



In this file photo taken Jan. 27, 2016 Holocaust survivors walk with others through the main gate of the former Nazi German Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp in Oswiecim, Poland.

Associated Press

Holocaust survivors, Weil said he was careful not to "misrepresent a real person or borrow from a specific moment in an actual person's life."

Most of the victims were

Jews, but there were also Poles, Roma, Russian prisoners of war and others. They died in the camp's gas chambers or from starvation, disease and forced labor, or shot by

the guards.

Museum spokesman Pawel Sawicki said Monday that authors and artists have a special obligation to tell the truth about Auschwitz, and that the "Hunt-

ers" authors did not contact the museum for facts. "If anyone wants to show human tragedy in Auschwitz it is enough to reach for the thousands of sources (survivors' testimonies) that are deeply shocking, but creating fiction that distorts the history of this real place is disrespectful of the people who suffered here," Sawicki told The Associated Press.

He said the museum is always willing to provide factual advice to anyone studying or working on Auschwitz history. More than 2 million people a year visit the site with its historic barracks, the ruins of the gas chambers and a monument to the victims. "Hunters" is about a post-war hunt in New York for Nazi war criminals. It includes a scene where Auschwitz inmates are figures in a chess game and are killed when they are taken off the chessboard.

"This is false. There was no such thing," Sawicki said. □



# Harvey Weinstein found guilty in landmark #MeToo moment

Continued from Front

Weinstein, 67, had a look of resignation as the verdict came in, and was seen talking to his lawyers shortly after.

A judge ordered him to go to jail immediately. Court officers surrounded Weinstein, handcuffed him and led him out of the courtroom. The judge said he will request that Weinstein be held in the infirmary after

his lawyers said he needs medical attention following an unsuccessful back surgery.

The verdict followed weeks of often harrowing and excruciatingly graphic testimony from a string of accusers who told of rapes, forced oral sex, groping, masturbation, lewd propositions and that's-Hollywood excuses from Weinstein about how the casting couch works.



Harvey Weinstein arrives at a Manhattan courthouse for jury deliberations in his rape trial, Monday, Feb. 24, 2020, in New York.

Associated Press

The conviction was seen as a long-overdue reckoning for Weinstein after years of whispers about his behavior turned into a torrent of accusations in 2017 that destroyed his career and gave rise to #MeToo, the global movement to encourage women to come forward and hold powerful men accountable for their sexual misconduct.

The jury of seven men and five women took five days to find him guilty.

The case against the once-feared producer was essentially built on three allegations: that he raped an aspiring actress in a New York City hotel room in 2013, that he forcibly performed oral sex on Haley and that he raped and forcibly performed oral sex on "Sopranos" actress Anna-bella Sciorra in her apartment in the mid-1990s.

Three additional women who said they, too, were attacked by Weinstein also testified as part of an effort by prosecutors to show a pattern of brutish behavior on his part.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sex crimes unless they grant permission, as Haley and Sciorra did.

Jurors signaled their struggles with the Sciorra charges four days into deliberations. On Friday, after reviewing sections of her testimony and related evidence, they sent a note to the judge indicating they were deadlocked on the

counts but had reached a unanimous verdict on the others. After some debate in the courtroom, the judge ordered jurors to keep deliberating.

While Weinstein did not testify, his lawyers contended that any sexual contact was consensual and that his accusers went to bed with him to advance their careers.

The defense seized on the fact that two of the women central to the case stayed in contact with Weinstein through warm and even flirty emails — and had sex with him — well after he supposedly attacked them.

The hard-charging and phenomenally successful movie executive helped bring to the screen such Oscar winners as "Good Will Hunting," "Pulp Fiction," "The King's Speech" and "Shakespeare in Love" and nurtured the careers of celebrated filmmakers like Quentin Tarantino and Kevin Smith.

Weinstein now faces charges in Los Angeles. In that case, announced just as the New York trial was getting under way on Jan. 6, authorities allege Weinstein raped one woman and sexually assaulted another on back-to-back nights during Oscars week in 2013. One of those women testified as a supporting witness at the New York trial.

The trial was the first criminal case to arise from a barrage of allegations against Weinstein from

more than 90 women, including actresses Gwyneth Paltrow, Salma Hayek and Uma Thurman. Most of those cases were too old to prosecute.

During the trial, Weinstein regularly trudged into the courthouse stooped and unshaven, using a walker after recently undergoing back surgery — a far cry from the way he was depicted in court as a burly, intimidating figure whose eyes seemed to turn black with menace when his anger flared.

Many of Weinstein's accusers described him as a "Jekyll and Hyde" character who could be incredibly charming at first, making jokes and showing interest in using his immense power to help their careers.

But that was an act, they said, meant to gain their trust and get them to a place — often a hotel room or an apartment — where he could violate them.

"If he heard the word 'no,' it was like a trigger for him," his rape accuser testified.

Several women testified that Weinstein excused his behavior as the price for getting ahead in Hollywood. One said that when she laughed off his advances, he sneered, "You'll never make it in this business. This is how this industry works."

The jury heard lurid testimony that Weinstein injected himself with a needle to get an erection, that his genitals appeared disfigured, that he sent Sciorra a box of chocolate penises and that he once showed up uninvited at her hotel room door in his underwear with a bottle of baby oil in one hand and a video in the other.

The prosecution's task was made more complicated because two of the women at the very center of the case didn't just abandon Weinstein after the alleged encounters: Haley testified that she had sex with him two weeks later, while the rape accuser whose name was withheld said she had a sexual encounter with him more than three years afterward. □

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PH MON-FRI 6:40 | 8:50 SAT-SUN 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50

PBP MON-THU 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40 FRI 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40 | 11:45 SAT 3:25 | 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40 | 11:45 SUN 3:25 | 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40

**THE CALL OF THE WILD**

HARRISON FORD | KAREN GILLAN

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-THU 6:00 | 8:35 FRI 6:00 | 8:35 | 11:05 SAT 3:25 | 6:00 | 8:35 | 11:05 SUN 3:25 | 6:00 | 8:35

PBP MON-FRI 4:10 | 6:40 | 9:10 SAT-SUN 1:40 | 4:10 | 6:40 | 9:10

**THE GENTLEMEN**

MATTHEW MCCONAGHEY | CHARLIE HUNNAM

PBP MON-FRI 4:05 | 6:40 | 9:15 SAT-SUN 1:30 | 4:05 | 6:40 | 9:15

**EMMA.**

ANYA TAYLOR-JOY | TANYA REYNOLDS

PH MON-FRI 6:00 SAT-SUN 3:20 | 6:00

**BLUE STORY**

STEPHEN ODUBOLA | MICHAEL WARD

PH MON-FRI 8:45 SAT-SUN 8:45 | 10:50

**SONIC THE HEDGEHOG**

JAMES MARSDEN | JIM CARREY

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-THU 6:00 | 8:20 FRI 6:00 | 8:20 | 10:40 SAT 3:40 | 6:00 | 8:20 | 10:40 SUN 3:40 | 6:00 | 8:20

CXC MON-THU 5:40 | 8:00 FRI 5:40 | 8:00 | 10:20 SAT 3:20 | 5:40 | 8:00 | 10:20 SUN 3:20 | 5:40 | 8:00

PBP MON-THU 4:20 | 6:35 | 8:50 FRI 4:20 | 6:35 | 8:50 | 11:05 SAT 2:05 | 4:20 | 6:35 | 8:50 | 11:05 SUN 2:05 | 4:20 | 6:35 | 8:50

PBP MON-FRI 4:55 | 7:10 SAT-SUN 2:40 | 4:55 | 7:10

WILL SMITH | MARTIN LAWRENCE

**BAD BOYS FOR LIFE**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-THU 6:05 | 8:40 FRI 6:05 | 8:40 | 11:15 SAT 3:30 | 6:05 | 8:40 | 11:15 SUN 3:30 | 6:05 | 8:40

PBP MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20 SAT-SUN 1:20 | 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20

MARGOT ROBBIE | MARY ELIZABETH WINSTED

**BIRDS OF PREY**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PBP MON-THU & SUN 9:25 FRI-SAT 9:25 | 11:40

LUCY HALE | MAGGIE Q

**FANTASY ISLAND**

PG-13

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## B. Smith, model turned lifestyle guru, dead at 70

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Barbara "B." Smith, one of the nation's top black models who went on to open restaurants, launch a successful home products line and write cookbooks, has died at her Long Island home at age 70 after battling early onset Alzheimer's disease. Smith's family announced on social media that she died Saturday evening.

"Heaven is shining even brighter now that it is graced with B.'s dazzling and unforgettable smile," Smith's husband Dan Gasby said on Facebook.

Smith's eponymous Manhattan restaurant opened in 1986 and attracted a following among affluent black New Yorkers, *The New York Times* recalled. *Essence* magazine described it as the place "where the who's who of black Manhattan meet, greet and eat regularly."

Smith wrote three cookbooks, founded three successful restaurants and launched a nationally syndicated television show and a magazine. Her successful home products line was the first from a black woman to be sold at a nationwide retailer when it debuted in 2001 at Bed Bath & Beyond.

In 1976, she became the second black model to be



In this Jan. 14, 2012 file photo, former model and restaurateur B. Smith arrives at the BET Honors red carpet in the Warner Theatre in Washington.

Associated Press

on the cover of *Mademoiselle* magazine, after Jolie Jones in 1969.

"You epitomized class, true beauty and dignity. Rest well Queen," actress Viola Davis wrote on Twitter.

Smith was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease in 2013. She and Gasby raised awareness of the disease, and particularly its impacts on the African-

American community, following her diagnosis.

Some described Smith as a "black Martha Stewart," a comparison she said she didn't mind though she believed the two lifestyle mavens were quite different.

"Martha Stewart has presented herself doing the things domestics and African Americans have done for years," she said in a 1997

interview with *New York* magazine. "We were always expected to redo the chairs and use everything in the garden. This is the legacy that I was left. Martha just got there first."

In the same interview, Gasby said, "Martha is perfection and Barbara is passion." Smith began suffering from memory problems years before her diagnosis.

She once froze for several seconds while being interviewed on the "Today Show," prompting a doctor's visit that led to her diagnosis. A few months later, she was missing in New York City for a day.

In 2018, Gasby revealed that he was in a relationship with another woman while caring for his ailing wife, leading to harsh criticism from some of her fans. He fired back at critics with a Facebook post about the pain of living with Alzheimer's in the family. "I love my wife but I can't let her take away my life," he wrote.

The couple co-authored a book, "Before I Forget: Love, Hope, Help, and Acceptance in Our Fight Against Alzheimer's," and have partnered with the Brain Health Registry.

Smith, a native of Pennsylvania, began her career as a fashion model in Pittsburgh and went on to serve as a spokeswoman for Verizon, Colgate, Palmolive Oxy and McCormick's Lawry seasonings. She hosted the nationally syndicated television show "B. Smith with Style" for nearly a decade, which aired on NBC stations.

Smith is survived by Gasby, whom she married in 1992, and her stepdaughter Dana Gasby. □

## Raf Simons joining Prada in full creative collaboration

By COLLEEN BARRY AP  
Fashion Write

**MILAN (AP)** — Miuccia Prada and Raf Simons — two of the fashion world's biggest creative names — will collaborate on Prada collections from Spring/Summer 2021 going forward indefinitely, the designers announced Sunday at a news conference on the sidelines of Milan Fashion Week.

Prada, who has been the creative force behind one of luxury's most successful brands for 30 years, said the new partnership didn't signal an eventual succession.

"Don't make me older than I am," the 70-year-old designer quipped.

Simons, 52, is considered one of the fashion world's biggest talents, whose future has been the subject of intense speculation since he left Calvin Klein in 2018. He previously was creative director of Jil Sander and Dior, and also has his own eponymous label, which he said would continue.

Their first collaboration will appear on the September runway for Spring/Summer 2021. "Maybe this is the first time in fashion history that two expert designers who had their own successes in this sector will work together," said Patrizio Bertelli, the co-CEO of the Prada Group with his wife, Miuccia Prada. The announcement came on a day when

the new coronavirus was a growing concern around the fashion capital. Giorgio Armani took the unusual step to show his collection behind closed doors to an empty theater, streaming for the fashion public, as a precaution. The rest of the fashion shows scheduled for Sunday continued as planned. Later Sunday the number of confirmed cases in Italy rose to at least 152 and officials halted the Venice Carnival to try to stop the spread of the virus. Prada said they went ahead with the announcement despite the growing emergency in Italy — where more cases of the COVID-19 virus have been confirmed than in Hong



Miuccia Prada and Raf Simons, left, hold a press conference in Milan, Italy, Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020, on the sidelines of Milan Fashion Week.

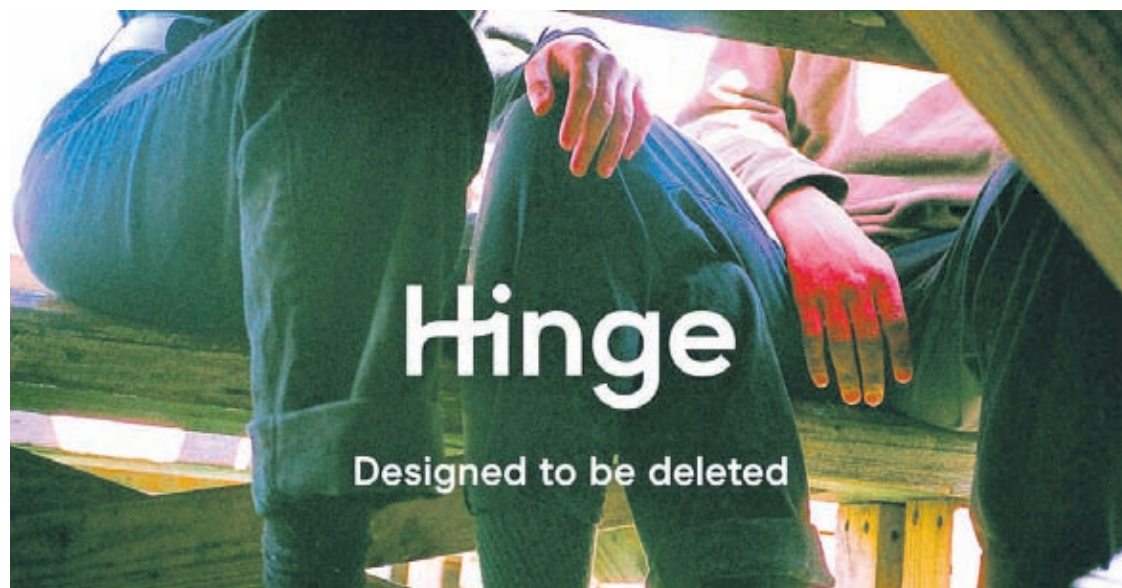
Associated Press

Kong. She said that the globalized world is becoming ever more complex "and

we need to work, also if these ugly and difficult things are happening." □



# Online daters looking for more than endless swiping



In this undated photo provided by Hinge is a page from the dating app.

Associated Press

By **LOUISE DIXON**  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — While taboos surrounding online dating are long gone, some of today's app users are sick of the endless swiping and virtual pen-paling that leads nowhere when it comes to long-term relationships, according to industry leaders who are responding with new ways to get users off their phones and out meeting people in the real world.

David Vermeulen is one such leader. His Inner Circle, launched in 2012, is more closely curating users looking for meaningful connections, and he's hosting offline events in cities around the globe to help make that happen among his more than 2 million members. He said he saw a big shift in online dating attitudes toward the end of the decade as some people have become "Tinder tired."

"They really now are looking for something more serious, something more genuine," Vermeulen said.

Justin McLeod, who launched Hinge in 2011, shares Vermeulen's view that dating apps should be focused on getting people offline. Hinge's tag line is the app that's "designed to be deleted."

In 2016, Hinge intentionally removed the swipe option to encourage more interaction. When they were told that people felt overwhelmed by their number of choices, they created a "most compatible" func-

tion. That, he said, "really helps people focus and get out on dates faster."

The Inner Circle plans to add a "Let's Meet" button to speed up the pathway from app to real-life date.

"If you both click it, you can within the chat select days and venues that we propose and then you can go on a date really quickly. And I mean going out for a coffee. I mean, that's the first step. But for a lot of people, it's quite a big step and we tried to make that much more easy," Vermeulen said.

His app also plans to add an automated response to anyone who just messages "Hi" as an introduction, which he said is often a dead-end to dating.

"We're gonna say, OK, this is not the best start for a conversation. You have to do better," Vermeulen said.

It's not just the newer generation of apps that are adapting to changing dating attitudes. OkCupid is one of the original dating sites, started by two Harvard math graduates in 2004. Beginning life as a desktop website, it developed into an app with the advent of smartphones. Today, OkCupid boasts that it sets up 50,000 dates per week.

The site enforces certain restrictions to try and weed out those not interested in getting to that date. The company insists that users post more than one photo and puts them through a list of localized timely questions before a profile can



This undated photo provided by OkCupid shows a page from the Dating app.

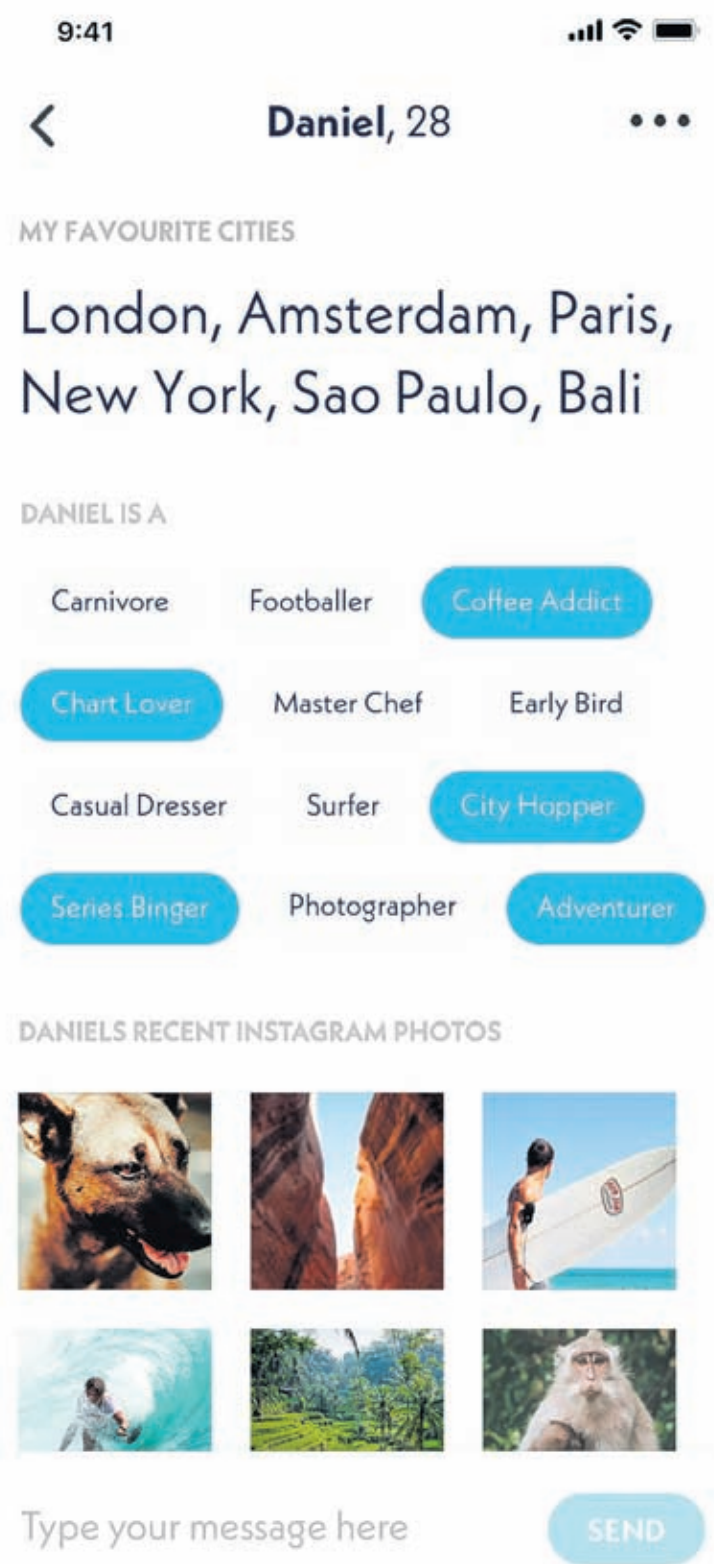
Associated Press

be set up. So if you thought you should avoid talking politics or religion on a first date, it seems the tides are turning.

Users can filter based on their views from climate change to Brexit.

"In the U.S., we may ask you, how do you feel the upcoming election? We may say, could you date someone that didn't vote?" said OkCupid's global chief marketing officer, Melissa Hobley.

According to a Pew Research Center study last year, 3 in 10 Americans have used a dating site or app and 12 percent have married or have been in a committed relationship with someone they met



This undated photo provide by Inner Circle shows a profile page on the dating app.

Associated Press

through online dating. Hobley said one of the most exciting developments as digital dating moves into the 2020s is in emerging markets including India, Indonesia, Turkey, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan and South Korea, where dating hasn't always been so easy. In India, for example, a new generation of women are "going to university, and they're working, and they're saying arranged marriage is not for me, and I want the ability to find my own person, and for my marriage to be a choice that I make," she said.

Hobley has also seen strides in inclusiveness and support throughout LGBTQ communities, creating a safe space to express gender and sexuality preferences and to meet potential partners.

"An estimated 70 to 80 percent of LGBTQ relationships started on a dating app," she said.

For Hobley, the love doesn't stop there. She said she gets an average of 5 to 20 wedding emails and invites a week.

"I will crash your wedding," she jokes, "but we also send a gift." □